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**UJA STUDY MISSION REPORT**

**1955 - 60**

IN A CRUCIAL HOUR

Report of the

1955 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

Israel, Europe, North Africa

October, 1955

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

(PRELIMINARY DRAFT)

Note:

This is a preliminary draft of the report of the 1955 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission. Because it contains information it is felt you should have now it is furnished to you for your interest. Because it is a draft report, it is not to be reprinted in whole or part.

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Report of the  
1955 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

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October, 1955

"You come to us in a crucial hour!"

Thus Itzhak Ben-Zvi, President of Israel, greeted the members of the 1955 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission three hours after our arrival in Jerusalem.

Gravely he added:

"We are hearing words from the Egyptians we have not heard in ten years. What is more, these words are slowly becoming deeds."

That Israel's President was permitting himself a rare comment on political matters drove home the significance of his message with stunning impact.

Only that morning - Thursday, October 20 -- we had landed at Lydda Airport scarcely anticipating the experience in store for us. We numbered more than fifty mission members from some twenty American communities. With wives and observers we made up a group of more than eighty, the largest UJA body ever to visit Israel.

We had come to learn at firsthand how the work of immigration and absorption, financed by UJA, was proceeding. It was our purpose, too, to try to determine what might be expected of the United Jewish Appeal and the American Jewish community in 1956.

Even as we arrived we believed we knew what must be the dominating subject of our agenda; how to speed the immigration to Israel of Jews from

tension-ridden North Africa. We had just spent four days in Paris at the Tenth Annual Country Directors' Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee, a UJA constituent. There we heard the plight of North Africa's Jewry put more bluntly and grimly than ever before.

But the agenda, we now discovered, had been rewritten in Cairo and Moscow. Communist arms already were flowing into Egypt from Czechoslovakia. From the rostrum of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, Prime Minister Sharett had appealed the day before to the conscience of the Western free world. He had urged prompt aid for his country. At the same time he had told the men and women of Israel to prepare for what might come.

Israel's Overriding Problem: Survival

Now Israel's leaders, the Prime Minister and President among them, turned to us as representatives of American Jewry. They sought to have us understand that Israel was now faced with the most overriding of problems: survival. They wished to have us know, too, what the times were asking of the men and women of the Jewish State. Only then could we appreciate what part of immediate and coming burdens ought to be borne by American Jewry.

For eight days, then, from the afternoon of our arrival to the morning of our departure, we saw and experienced an Israel calmly steeling itself for possible supreme responsibilities.

We took our knowledge both from the penetrating remarks of the leaders of the land and from the simple words of recent immigrants building new lives in sight of hostile borders. What we had to learn could be read alike in the inspiring development that has taken place in whole phases of Israel's national life and in those still broad areas of that life suffering from the blight of no funds.

As far as we have the power to do so, we wish to convey the substance and

significance of what we heard and saw. We are anxious, too, to pass on some of the exhilaration and satisfaction we felt at being in Israel, a land shining with progress and human courage even in the face of gravest difficulties. Finally, we wish to recommend what we earnestly believe to be the responsibilities of the United Jewish Appeal and the American Jewish community in Israel's crucial hour.

"A Supreme Emergency" -- Sharett

"You arrived at a time when Israel itself was suddenly plunged into a supreme emergency" -- with these words, Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, speaking to us at an official dinner on our first evening in the land, reinforced what we had already heard from President Ben-Zvi.

In the light of the sudden and violent threat posed to Israel's immediate security and very existence by the new Communist action in the Middle East, it might be supposed that Israel's Foreign Minister -- and then Prime Minister -- would have suggested cutting back the country's immigration program.

But exactly the opposite happened. Unanimously, Mr. Sharett, his fellow Government leaders, and the leaders of the Jewish Agency, UJA's principal beneficiary, called on us to go forward with all that might be required to bring in North Africa's threatened Jews, and to do so with a new sense of urgency.

With telling effect, Mr. Sharett summed up Israel's suddenly changed security position:

"The situation has been totally revolutionized. The dark event which overshadows all our problems is the assured prospect gained by Egypt, the strongest of our enemies and a State which persists in declaring and proving it is at war with us, of overwhelming arms superiority by the supply of large quantities of modern weapons from Czechoslovakia. The responsibility of the

Soviet Union for this ostensibly commercial, but actually political and military deal of a most pernicious nature, is inescapable. It is an ominous departure, threatening our very existence, exposing the internal peace and stability of the Middle East to grave peril and casting its shadows far and wide over the world arena."

In this situation what responsibilities did Mr. Sharett see accruing to the United States, to the people of Israel, and to American Jewry?

He listed them as follows:

America, he declared, should promptly conclude a security treaty with Israel.

He asked: "Is it not the moral obligation of the United States to act swiftly as a guardian of peace and tranquility?"

As to the people of Israel, he stated:

"It is our bounden duty to prepare for the worst, which seems imminent. We have no choice. Our budget may have to be recast. New sacrifices on the part of our population are bound to become imperative. . . The crushing weight of this unforeseen expenditure will fall upon the citizens of Israel."

Then, Mr. Sharett turned to the obligations which Jewish communities abroad might properly assume:

"Under these circumstances is it now more than ever incumbent upon the Jewish communities of the free world -- first and foremost in the great and free democracy of the United States -- to exceed all their imposing records of generosity by undertaking to bear the brunt of Israel's great effort of development and economic consolidation?"

In unforgettable words, the Prime Minister went on:

"The focus of our constructive work is the provision for and the productive absorption of the increasing numbers of our people from North African

countries whose fate is so perilously uncertain. . . This highly creative work, upon the success of which our entire future rests, should not be jeopardized by the present emergency, but should by very reason of it, expand and prosper."

"Another Decade of Self-Denial" -- Eshkol

What the Mission heard on our first day, we heard rephrased and restated the next as we began our business sessions.

At Thursday evening's occasion, Berl Locker, the distinguished chairman of the Jewish Agency, had welcomed us declaring:

"American Jewry, (which) has grasped the signals of history, has for years made great efforts and thereby has secured its rightful place as the leading Jewry of the world. . . But you will find that the vision of reviving the country and the people is still at an early stage, and that the major part of the task is ahead of us."

Now, Friday morning, October 21st, we heard from two of the leading builders and planners of the new Israel, Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance, and Dr. Giora Josephthal, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency and head of its Absorption Department.

Mr. Eshkol's report on account of Israel's economic progress since statehood, and his outline of its future goals and needs, we found both heartening and sobering.

In Israel today, one is struck immediately by the signs of progress on every hand; the new settlements, broad fields under cultivation, store windows filled with goods, new roads, new housing and new transport. But it is not so simple to see the personal cost at which this progress has been achieved or to visualize the sacrifices that the citizens of Israel must continue to make.



Yet Israel's people, the Finance Minister told us, will have to go along another ten years at a "modest level" of consumption. Even without the new burdens promised by the changed security situation, to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to receive more immigrants they face another decade of "pioneer devotion" and "self-denial."

With graphic illustration, Mr. Eshkol summed up the central features of Israel's achievements in its seven and a half years of statehood. Israel, he declared, has:

- 1) Taken in 770,000 immigrants, absorbing, or partially absorbing, the great body of them.
- 2) Created 395 new settlements throughout the length and breadth of the land, and greatly enlarged its towns and cities.
- 3) More than doubled the cultivated land area, from 1,650,000 dunams to 3,675,000, and more than tripled the irrigated area, from 290,000 dunams to 900,000.
- 4) Constructed more than 300,000 rooms of new housing for immigrants, the 63-mile giant Yarkon-Negev pipeline, hundreds of miles of new road, new railroad lines and other communications.
- 5) Established more than 700 new industrial enterprises.

The Mission learned from Mr. Eshkol that Israel now produces 70 per cent of its own food and has forged ahead in the growing of industrial crops. The citrus industry, now being greatly expanded, continues as the number one cash crop. But new strength for the country's economic position is coming from recently introduced peanuts, cotton and sugar beets.

Meanwhile, Mr. Eshkol declared, what remains for Israel to accomplish on her march toward economic self-sufficiency, is "overwhelming," adding -- "all the more so because of the dangers and pitfalls that lie ahead."

He expressed gratification that Israel had found oil, but stated it was "premature" to count the effect of the Heletz strike on the national economy. He added, however, that one might "dare dream that there is more oil in the country."

The Israel Finance Minister told us that Israel would have to press forward toward economic independence "at full speed," even while it strives to meet both the demands of the "defense situation" and "the impelling need for renewed immigration from North Africa."

He listed these goals for Israel's economic advancement in the next several years:

- 1) Increasing exports from about \$100,000,000 a year, the current total, to more than \$400,000,000.
- 2) Doubling the productivity of Israel's new settlements, at a three year expenditure of \$100,000,000.
- 3) Greatly expanding Israel's industrial production and reducing production costs.
- 4) Increasing national productivity by 50 per cent, primarily through increasing the per man-hour output.

Maintaining another ten years of austerity and increasing the per man productivity are problems which Israel must meet alone, Mr. Eshkol told us. But increasing agricultural and industrial production, plus exports, invites the full and continued support of American Jews through many channels, including the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bonds and private investment.

The Israel Finance Minister declared:

"You well know to what extent we are indebted to the UJA and to your leadership for enabling us to bring 770,000 newcomers, settling them, and making . . . advances along the road to economic independence. The question

is, whether we could not have done more, if you had supplied more capital."

Mr. Eshkol described vividly how the 395 new settlements, made possible by UJA and peopled by about 300,000 UJA-aided immigrants, were "greatly responsible" for the progress in food supply and in growing industrial crops. But he added that an investment of another \$100,000,000 (over a three year period) by the Jewish Agency (including UJA) could make these communities fully independent.

Israel's Finance Minister said to us:

"It is an absolute debt of honor of the Jewish Agency -- that is, of the United Jewish Appeal -- to give these people the additional means so they will be able, in the shortest possible time, to stand on their own two feet."

Now Israel's Finance Minister turned to the need for North African immigration, declaring:

"The alarm bell is sounding for hundreds of thousands of Jews in North Africa . . . We dare not leave entire Jewish communities hostage in Arab hands. The doors of Israel must -- absolutely must -- be kept wide open for every Jew who wants or needs rescue."

Then Mr. Eshkol told us that the people of Israel had already undertaken to do their share towards meeting the costs of the North African immigration. New taxes had been inaugurated designed to raise the equivalent of \$20,000,000.

Israel's Finance Minister stated:

"Not a citizen in Israel will take a drink, smoke a cigarette, or build a house without paying a share of the cost for the North African Aliyah."

#### Moroccan Jews Feel Future Black - JDC Conference

In Paris, where we attended the JDC Country Directors' Conference from October 16 through October 19, we already had heard a grim analysis by representatives of the JDC of the situation confronting the nearly 300,000 Jews of Morocco and Tunisia.

They praised the role of the French authorities for their past help to North Africa's Jews and appreciatively acknowledged the good intentions of the moderate Arab nationalist leaders toward their Jewish neighbors.

Nevertheless, the JDC representatives, speaking as responsible social work administrators, held as follows:

- Since the July-August 1955 Arab outbreaks in Morocco, the majority of Moroccan Jews and even Tunisian Jews, are convinced they have no future where they are,

- The July-August attacks in Morocco on Jewish individuals, homes and stores were not always the accidental by-products of Arab attacks on the French. Many were "premeditated."

- The prompt action by Jewish community leaders in July and August in removing whole communities of Jews from the path of Arab rioters, and evacuating various Jewish quarters in time, played a large role in keeping the loss of Jewish lives to a minimum.

- The fair-minded attitude of some Arab nationalists towards the Jews has little currency among the Arab masses of Morocco.

- Many thousands more than the 45,000 Jews the Jewish Agency plans to bring out of North Africa in twelve months are ready to go to Israel.

- Emigration must be speeded. The danger exists that it can be reduced or halted by future contingencies.

- The progress in community organization -- teaching North African Jews how to help themselves -- has been brought to a standstill by the past summer's terrorism.

- Morocco's Jews feel their economic future as well as their political one, is black, providing another reason for wishing to leave.

The situation in Morocco for most Jews was summed up by one of the JDC representatives in these words:

"The premeditated attacks on Jewish businesses and homes in Mazagan, Safi, Ouezzban, Boujad and other towns during the August 20th days, as well as the attack on Jews in the mellah of Casablanca during July, have created a deep feeling that Jews have no future in the country . . . Their economic situation has also steadily deteriorated during the years, with the Arabs moving in and displacing the Jews from trades and occupations in which they have predominated for centuries. Thus, the Jews feel more and more that their political, as well as their economic, future is black, and look to Israel as their only hope."

"A New Economy and a New Society" -- Josephthal

Not only did the Mission members become fully aware in Paris that American Jews must assist in the North African emigration, we also came to understand we must maintain critically needed relief and welfare services for North African Jews who would not be leaving soon -- and indeed, for all the 200,000 Jews served by JDC in twenty countries.

But the basic task that faces UJA in 1956 was outlined for us in Jerusalem by Dr. Giora Josephthal, Israel's outstanding authority for immigration matters, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency and head of its Absorption Department. He put before us a four point "must" program of the Jewish Agency, UJA's chief beneficiary, designed to bring in 45,000 North African Jews under the Agency's "Ship-to-Settlement" plan, as well as to speed the final absorption of tens of thousands of the country's recent immigrants.

The cost of this program -- Dr. Josephthal told us -- would be \$127,000,000, and it could be realized only if the main funds came from the United Jewish Appeal. The Jewish Agency Treasurer stated that preliminary estimates of the monies that might be produced for the Agency's work through the regular campaign of the 1956 United Jewish Appeal indicated that these would be at least

\$25,000,000 short of what was needed. He emphasized that American Jews must, in some fashion, make a special effort to produce the \$25,000,000 additional amount.

He listed the four points as follows:

1) The immigration and first year's settlement of 45,000 immigrants from North Africa from October, 1955 through September, 1956 -- at a cost of \$45,000,000.

2) The elimination of the last of the maabaroah -- Israel's tin hut immigrant towns virtually collapsing after five years -- and the provision of housing for 60,000 persons still living in them -- at a cost of \$42,000,000.

3) A three-year drive to double the productive capacity of Israel's 395 new immigrant farm settlements, necessitating a first year investment of \$33,000,000. (Already discussed by Mr. Eshkol.)

4) A widespread program of educational, agricultural and vocational training opportunities for immigrant youth from "backward countries," -- youngsters who stand in danger of becoming Israel's lost generation -- to cost \$7,000,000.

The registration of North African Jews for Israel immigration, said Dr. Josephthal, is "roughly 100,000." The figure of 45,000, he told us, is a "compromise" -- representing the total Israel believes it can receive under the orderly "ship-to-settlement" program and so avoid the camps, tin hut towns and blows to the national economy of earlier immigrations.

But the Jewish Agency Treasurer issued two warnings:

First, he stressed the plan could go forward only if American Jews made the special effort indicated and raised the full funds required of them.

The Government, he informed us, had just told the Agency that the security emergency facing it ruled out any possibility that it could lend or

furnish funds to make up any Agency deficit next year.

Second, Dr. Josephthal emphasized that no one could be sure how much time is available for the orderly emigration of North Africa's Jews. The Jewish Agency, he revealed, has bought a new transit camp in Europe to house 5,000 additional Moroccan Jews in the case of eventualities. And it is preparing tents, in Israel, for the same reason.

Dr. Josephthal -- like previous speakers -- made it clear that it was unthinkable that Israel should forego next year's immigration effort, even in the face of the new Egyptian-Communist threat.

To a direct question on this subject, Dr. Josephthal replied movingly:

"Jews are in danger in North Africa. Shall we abandon them now to make Israel's burden easier? The very reason for Israel's existence, that which we live for, is to take Jews out of danger . . ."

We were reminded by the Jewish Agency leader that Arab ascendancy in the two French protectorates is already a matter of record.

With deepest feeling, Dr. Josephthal summed up the obligation of Jews everywhere to help those North African Jews who wish to leave:

"If any one of us were living in Morocco or Tunisia . . . he would certainly leave. To be identified with your fellow Jews means that you do not demand from him what you would not demand of yourself!"

The Jewish Agency Treasurer emphasized for us that immigration only "begins" when the immigrant reaches Haifa. The final objective of the whole process is to "make" immigrants self-supporting. He distributed the costs of the first year's transportation and absorption for a typical North African family of five as follows:

Transport . . . . .	\$ 650.00
Initial equipment, household effects and health services . . . . .	350.00
Housing . . . . .	2,500.00
Employment . . . . .	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total:	\$5,000.00

Dr. Josephthal said he could report with pride that 60 per cent of the 35,000 ship-to-settlement immigrants who arrived from August 1954 through October 1955 had gone on the land, primarily in the Lachish area. None had gone to camps.

He told us, too, that in 1948 Israel had only 6,700 Jews in its southern district -- the Negev. Today, it has 75,000 -- mainly new immigrants.

"Israel's agricultural settlers," he declared, "are to a large extent determining Israel's economy and security since it is the new settlements that are filling up the empty spaces that have invited hostile attack and incursion."

Then Dr. Josephthal concluded:

"Surrounded by hostile armies and facing them squarely, we are at the same time building a new economy and new society."

Israel's Best Argument: Israel

Addresses and discussions, whether in New York, Paris or even Jerusalem, must eventually lose their impact. It was with a keen sense of anticipation, then, that the Mission took up the best of all expositions of what Israel is and hopes to be -- Israel itself. We were not disappointed.

A series of Sabbath occasions in Jerusalem, October 22 and a four-day tour that began October 23 and took us from Beersheba to Haifa, provided us with never-to-be-forgotten sights and experiences. They gave us increased



insight, too, into the meaning of the aid American Jews give through UJA.

Here are a handful of the many experiences we are not likely to forget:

At the Israel Goldstein Youth Village, outside of Jerusalem, we were welcomed by Moshe Kol, distinguished Chairman of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah Department, and by Youth Aliyah youngsters from North Africa, few of them in the country more than two years. The memorable faces of these children, reflecting security and a feeling of belonging, plus their capable choral singing, dancing, gymnastics and arts and crafts work, showed how far behind they had left the mellah. As Mr. Kol pointed out, Israel can reap a very full crop of able citizens from such youngsters.

Southwest of Jerusalem we saw Lachish, the site of Israel's most dramatic colonization effort since statehood. Here, where once David slew Goliath and Samson smote the Philistines, a centuries-barren area is springing to life. It is here that the Jews of North Africa come under the Ship-to-Settlement plan.

"Operation Lachish," sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the Government, calls for some eventual 40 settlements, to be established on the basis of a regional plan, with homes for 40,000 persons, industries and the cultivation of industrial crops, particularly cotton.

The Mission saw Lachish five months after the day when plans for it moved out of the blue-print stage towards realization. This occurred with the founding of the first settlement, May 24.

Now, Raanan Weitz, dynamic head of the Jewish Agency's Agricultural Settlement Department could tell us that Lachish boasted fifteen settlements, a population of 5,000, roads, electricity, a railway line abuilding (Tel-Aviv-Beersheba) and water coming from the newly opened Yarkon-Negev pipeline.

We saw Otzem, first of the Lachish settlements, where concrete-block

houses were already being put up by the settlers to replace the wooden prefabs that were their first homes. We met the children of Otzem, gathered in front of their new school-house, and talked with the settlers who have already ploughed the fields where cotton will grow next spring.

We saw Kiriat-Gat where the gin for next year's cotton is already erected and working. It was processing cotton from the Negev.

And then we saw Nechusha. Standing just this side of the Jordan frontier, a lonely collection of "pre-fabs" and tents in the bleakest, most desolate territory imaginable, it is Nechusha and similar outpost settlements that make Lachish -- even Israel -- possible. Comfort-wise, Nechusha is as many miles away from Tel Aviv, only two and a half hours by car, as it is from Paris or New York. Here picked Israeli youth, trained in defense and farming alike have settled to plant orchards, build homes and guard the way.

Moving south of Lachish the Mission journeyed through the Upper Negev to Beersheba. Here, in the once desolate Faluja country were gleaming new settlements, set among broad green fields, marked by crops and orchards -- all made possible by the irrigation UJA has helped to bring to this once thirsty land.

And Beersheba itself? In seven and a half years a sleepy sunbaked town of 3,000 has been transformed into a bustling city of 22,000, featuring industries, amenities and vast housing developments.

Now the Mission turned northward. At Haifa we met just arrived immigrants from North Africa. We boarded the SS Negbah and talked with men, women and children who, in a few hours, would be starting new lives in new homes in Lachish.

The calibre of these immigrants -- part of 5,400 who came in October -- was excellent. We wanted to know why they had left.

"Because we were afraid," they told us.

But they told us, too, they were not afraid to come to Israel. Here they would have the chance to protect themselves. They had heard en route that Israel's citizens were collecting funds for defense. Proudly, they added that out of what little they had, they too, had collected several hundred pounds.

At Pardess Hanna we saw part of Israel's "other side" -- programs suffering for lack of funds. Here the Jewish Agency reluctantly has practiced that most terrible of economies -- that of "making do" with substandard service.

Some 2,000 aged and handicapped immigrants have been living in Pardess Hanna for three to five years in shacks that needed tearing down in their first year. But we also learned that, under a new arrangement, Malben - JDC's remarkable welfare program for dependent aged and handicapped immigrants, would try to rehouse the residents of Pardess Hanna before the end of 1956.

A few hours later at Givat Hashlosha, one of twelve old age homes established by Malben in Israel, we saw what this would mean. Here 250 men and women, average age 72, who had known the worst in Hitler's Europe, were living in dignity and happiness. They had work of their own choosing to keep them busy, beautiful surroundings, and good care. The memory of the contentment in the faces of the Givat Hashlosha residents will long remain with us.

One out of every seven immigrants who have come to Israel, represents a "social case" -- a person without means, unable to help himself by virtue of age, physical or mental handicaps, or chronic illness.

Mainly, these are men and women who suffered most in the Hitler terror. Israel took them in without question. And Malben -- JDC in Israel -- headed by one of Israel's great administrators, Charles Passman, has relieved the new State of much of the burden of caring for this "hard core" group, and restoring it.

But perhaps the high spot of the Mission's tour came at a five-year old settlement less than a mile away from the Jordan-held town of Tulkaram. This was Sha'arei Ephraim, settled by some of the 45,000 Yemenite Jews flown to Israel in 1948-49 in the famous UJA-financed "Operation Magic Carpet."

There we saw with what skill, industry and devotion the men, women and children who were brought to freedom from semi-slavery in an Arab State have repaid their debt. Sha'arei Ephraim is a success, a settlement that pays its own way, producing high yields of peanuts, cotton, sugar beets and vegetables of all sorts.

The school children of Sha'arei Ephraim entertained the "visitors from America" with song and flashing dances. Speeches of welcome and of deep appreciation for our helping in rescuing Yemen's Jews were read to us in Hebrew.

But seven-year old Shimon Hadad had a warning as well as a welcome.

"Our home . . . is less than a kilometer from the hills. The enemy lives there. What the meaning of an enemy is, everyone understands. . . We are confident that the Rock of Israel will not forsake his people. But as our Rabbis said, "We should not rely on miracles. . ."

We Cannot Say "No" -- Myerson

No report can serve adequately to set down all the Mission heard, viewed and felt.

We saw the dynamic, modern Israel of today, alive with people and progress as well as problems.

But the true Israel, its meaning and exhilaration, is Israel read in terms of its momentous past, immediate and ancient.

In the foreground of our thoughts as we travelled through the country were memories of the concern and despair that gripped our own Jewish generation in the Hitler days.

A little more than a decade and a half ago we were forced to stand by, almost helpless, while six million innocent Jews were slaughtered by Nazi tyranny.

Now, in Israel, we looked about and saw what we had been privileged to help create since. We saw a land of freedom, peopled by whole populations we did not permit to die or be killed off, its gates still wide open to any Jew in danger.

On a Sabbath in Jerusalem in the room where Israel's Cabinet sits, we had the unforgettable privilege of looking at the newly recovered Dead Sea Scrolls -- the oldest known Bible manuscripts, and priceless treasures from our Jewish past. In the "Isaiah scroll", we saw the words of Israel's prophet of redemption, set down perhaps eight hundred years from the time he lived.

Is there a visitor to Israel with even a passing knowledge of the Bible, who can walk through the land unaccompanied in his mind's ear by the mighty music of Isaiah's words, sounding across twenty-five centuries:

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations (61 :7).

In Jerusalem, again, on our return from the four-day tour, we heard one of Israel's great figures, Golda Myerson, Minister of Labor, sum up the case for a quickened North African immigration:

"We could say, 'Now we must save Israel.' But I can't imagine a more terrible day in the life of anyone of us than one when we would have to say (to North Africa's Jews) - 'Stay there awhile'!

"Suppose war comes, and we win, and then find there are no longer Jews left to save. My friends, we have built Israel for too many Jews who are not here to save any more. No person in the world ever imagined that there would

be a Jewish State with no Polish, Lithuanian or Russian Jewry to come to it . . . We cannot say "no" to the Jews of North Africa. We cannot, for their sake, for Israel's sake, and for our own sake so that we can live with ourselves."

"Match Courage with Courage, Giving with Giving" -- Mission Statement

It was in the light of these experiences that the 1955 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission drew up a closing statement in Jerusalem. (See page 21.)

With all the power at our command, we call the two main points of that statement to the attention of the American Jewish community and to all who make the United Jewish Appeal possible.

We urge their implementation in fullest measure and without delay:

We declared:

"The people of Israel, even though assuming full responsibility for their own increased security needs have already imposed substantial additional taxes on themselves, specifically for new immigration. Therefore, the task of the UJA this year must be to assume the greatest possible responsibility for the settlement and colonization of the newcomers.

And we went on to say:

It is clear that greater efforts are required by the American Jewish community for the UJA. We are convinced that this is the time to match courage with courage, giving with giving.

In our statement, as in this report, we stressed how the people and leaders of Israel, concerned as they rightfully are with their country's security, nevertheless also are filled with the greatest anxiety for their fellow Jews of North Africa.

We who make this report strongly ask that it not be interpreted as the account of "another emergency."

Not since 1948 have the lives of the people of Israel been so overwhelmingly dominated by the issue contained in the single word: "Survival!"

They ask us of the United Jewish Appeal only to meet great human needs -- the rescue of those who must come and the absorption of those who have come.

What they ask means that American Jews, in 1956 -- must find the ways and means to answer these needs in fullest measure.

This we believe in all conscience and honor we can do and must do.



The 1955 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission Committee:

S T A T E M E N T

1955 UJA STUDY MISSION

The 1955 Study Mission of the UJA was greeted in Israel by Prime Minister Sharett, who said: "You are arriving at a time when Israel is suddenly plunged into a supreme emergency."

We have become quickly aware of the mood existing in the country. The people are firm in their unified resolve to remain strong in the face of any eventuality. We have seen the spontaneous outpouring of voluntary contributions. Young children in schools are bringing in their savings banks and old men are giving up their pensions.

It would have been understandable, if, in the face of a justifiable anxiety for the security of the country, the citizens of Israel became less concerned with the problems of absorbing new immigrants. We have found, however, that this is not so. There exists the most intense determination that those who are coming from North Africa and other places shall find Israel's doors wide open. Every responsible leader in Government and Agency made it perfectly clear to us that Israel needed and wanted these people.

At the Paris meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee which we attended before arriving in Israel, we came to understand the deep and compelling motives which cause the Jews of North Africa to seek refuge. We met some of these immigrants on board a ship which brought them to Haifa. They are coming from North Africa in tens of thousands faster than ever before. Programs of settlement and absorption therefore become all the more crucial. There must not be, especially at this time, any breakdown in the absorptive process.

The people of Israel even though assuming full responsibility for their own increased security needs have already imposed substantial additional taxes upon themselves, specifically for new immigration. Therefore, the task of the UJA this year must be to assume the greatest possible responsibility for the settlement and colonization of the newcomers.

On the eve of our departure, the UJA Study Mission conveys to the people of Israel its feelings of deepest admiration. Whatever the future holds, we express our determination not only to continue but to enlarge our support. It is clear that greater efforts are required by the American Jewish community for the UJA. We are convinced that this is the time to match courage with courage, giving with giving.

We therefore have taken the initiative to convoke immediately an extraordinary conference of the leaders of the American Jewish communities, whose purpose it shall be to reevaluate and rescale our methods of meeting our historic responsibilities and to plan such action as will properly meet the needs of the times.

We leave with the traditional word of greeting and farewell, which in this case carries our most fervent wish and hope, Shalom - Peace.



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# "THE DAY IS SHORT"

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*Report of the*

1956 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

ISRAEL, EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA

OCTOBER, 1956

*(Preliminary Draft)*



*Note:* This is a draft of the report of the 1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission. It is furnished to you in this form because it is  
that you should have the information it contains at this time. However, because it is only a draft, it is not to be reprinted in whole or part.

"THE DAY IS SHORT"

Report of the  
1956 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

ISRAEL, EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA

October, 1956

This report of the 1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission is being written as the heroic people of Israel strive in a tense and difficult hour to insure their future and their freedom.

A year before our Mission, the 1955 study group visited Israel just as Egypt's ambitious Colonel Nasser made his ominous arms deal with the Soviet Union.

It was the unforgettable experience of our Mission to see Israel mere days before that year came to a history-making climax.

It is not our purpose to go into events that in recent weeks have had the benefit of the fullest sort of news attention.

Instead, this report is offered as the eye-and-ear witness testimony of a group of American Jews who, just having been in Israel, feel that a heavy responsibility weighs on all of us to understand what lies behind the headlines, to know what we can do, and to do it quickly and effectively.

It is offered, too, in the belief that even in a time of greatest tensions and dangers, none must lose sight of the vision of human freedom, of relief from age-old oppression, and of haven for the homeless, which Israel represents and which must be enabled to survive.

As far as Israel's people are concerned -- they will not give up this vision and the monumental effort to build their free land, even under the most

dire circumstances. For as David Ben Gurion, Israel's heroic Prime Minister declared to us on a quiet Sabbath afternoon in Herzilia:

"Our people know this is their last stand. Either they will win or they are finished."

They mean to win -- and in making good this resolve they welcome and deserve fullest help.

### The Mission

On the morning of October 18, the first contingent of the 1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission landed in Israel at Lydda airport.

When the full Mission assembled at the Accadia Hotel, Herzilia, a day later, we numbered some 80 American Jews from about 40 communities, active in national and local Jewish affairs. We had come to Israel at our own expense. With our wives we made up a group of more than 100.

Our purpose in coming was threefold:

- to learn at first hand the conditions prevailing in the country
- to determine how effectively UJA funds, including Special Survival Fund money, were being used in behalf of Israel's newcomers
- to estimate what needs American Jews might be expected to meet or share in meeting in 1957.

Before reaching Israel we had spent five days in Paris, attending the 11th Annual Country Directors' Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Here we received authoritative reports from leading workers in the field on JDC's extensive life-saving activities on behalf of Jews in Moslem lands and Europe, and for newcomers to Israel in need of special welfare services. In addition, a sub-committee of eight Mission members visited the camps in Marseilles in which North African emigrants wait for their chance to go on to Israel.

In Israel, as guests of the Jewish Agency, the philanthropic body which meets the needs of Israel's immigrants, and with the full cooperation of the Government of Israel, we spent eight memorable and inspiring days. We conferred with the country's topmost leaders and made extensive field visits to outstanding centers of immigrant settlement and economic development.

The list of those from whom we were privileged to receive reports is long and distinguished. It includes Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, Foreign Minister Golda Meir, Minister of Posts Dr. Josef Burg, Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Zalam Shazar, retiring Jewish Agency Treasurer Dr. Giora Josephthal and Agency Executive Members S. Z. Shragai, Meir Grossman and Avraham Harman, among others.

Equally important, was the fact that we had the opportunity to meet and talk with the people of Israel themselves - old timers, new settlers, professionals, workers, city dwellers and farmers.

#### On the Eve of an Explosion

When the 1956 Study Mission came to Israel not even its most knowing members suspected how close matters stood to an explosion.

We were well aware that the land we were entering had lived for twelve terrible months in the shadow of the Egyptian-Soviet arms pact, with its threat to Middle East peace and its dark promise of Israel's annihilation.

But from the moment of entry we began to receive telling indications of the terrible economic and psychological strain that had weighed upon a brave people as they sought to prepare for possible frightful eventualities.

Above all, we gathered a sense of the difficulties of life in a time of "twilight war" -- a period of Nasser-directed heightened aggression stopping just short of full-scale attack.

By their semi-war Nasser and his Arab allies sought to besiege Israel

economically, isolate it politically, and to keep its daily life in turmoil through the use of fedayeen - armed bands of infiltrators assigned to sabotage, destruction and the murder of unarmed civilians.

At a distance of six thousand miles or more away, in New York or Chicago, a news account of the murder of another Israel citizen by fedayeen is at best an item of momentary concern.

But the unnerving, depressing, on the spot, day-in-and-day-out impact of such news is entirely different, as we of the Mission can affirm.

We were in Israel at a time when statisticians could grimly point to the fact that every 36 hours on the average, for the last three months, some Israel civilian - a woman picking olives, an archeologist engaged in exploration, a farmer working his fields, a farm wife at her duties -- was killed or wounded by Arab aggression in contemptuous disregard of the United Nations Charter and in violation of the U.N. cease-fire.

It was the experience of the Mission members, too, to share other reminders of trouble and terror.

Like the citizens of the land, we thought twice about travelling from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by night, for fear of Arab shots across the road.

When we visited youth villages, old age homes and farm settlements, we were struck by the sight of newly dug slit trenches and newly constructed air-raid shelters amid peaceful surroundings.

Even in our most relaxed moments, in Israel's peaceful cities, it was not easy to forget that Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, were at best, 10 to 15 minutes away - as the Soviet Ilyushin jet bomber flies -- from Egypt's air-fields.

Thus tension was in the air before and during our stay -- but for all that the Mission functioned smoothly and effectively.

Meanwhile, to offset the sobering effect of a grim security situation, there was the exciting and inspiring evidence of the courage of Israel's people and leaders in the face of gravest danger and of their absolute refusal to give up the great tasks of refugee rescue and rehabilitation that constitute the very core of Israel's meaning.

### Survival for the Endangered

For Jews in danger the gates of Israel are always wide open.

Take into account the strains and pressures created for Israel since October, 1955 by the Nasser-Moscow pact, and one can only ask in awe and admiration:

"Is there another land anywhere so dominated by the overriding need to insure its own survival that would insist on giving equal priority to the survival of those it considers equally threatened?"

The lands from which Jews are coming today are primarily lands whose doors were considered closed - but have opened a little for the time being.

On the morning of Sunday, October 21, the members of the Mission met a plane-load of immigrants from just such a land, as they arrived at Lydda airport.

No experience of all the significant moments that Israel has to offer can match the emotion and inspiration of such an event.

Down from the plane came men and women with wonder in their eyes that they should reach the time when they would again be free.

Their clothing was the heavy clothing of another world - not that of semi-tropical Israel. Their possessions were rope-tied packages and just a battered suitcase or so. Some clutched a child, or two, by the hand, or carried a babe.

Their faces bore the weariness of the journey and something more -- the

tight-lipped, worn and cautious look of people who have long lived and suffered in an atmosphere where wariness and silence are the first rules of existence.

Now these very faces that seemed as if they had almost forgotten how to smile began to break out into the broadest of grins.

Suddenly, in a moment almost, the immigrants were engulfed by relatives and friends who had been waiting. Around the Mission there now raged a sea of reunions as sister found sister, brother found brother, sons and daughters found fathers and mothers, friend found friend.

They met with shouts of joy. They cried with tears of gladness. They clung to each other, weeping, laughing and shaking their heads in disbelief. Who could think that they would live to see this moment. The lost ones had come home.

#### Israel's Aim: Peace

What needs to be understood above all, is that the Arab hostility and resultant tension which today color life in Israel, represent the last things that the nation wants.

This is not a belligerent people - though it is a determined one.

In his memorable and telling address before us, Prime Minister Ben Gurion, who is also Minister of Defense, had this to say:

"We have three aims of policy. First, to establish peace - permanent peace between us and our neighbors. So far we have been unable to get it because our neighbors have refused to have peace. So our second aim is to avoid war. We could not avoid war when we established our independence, and we had to fight...Our third aim has been this: If war comes, be able to defeat them..."

The Prime Minister went on: "But our first choice is always peace and

our second choice the prevention of war. We have succeeded in our second choice for the last eight years..."

In a similar vein, Israel's Foreign Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, one of Israel's most remarkable leaders, also spoke of Israel's deep desire for peace.

Commenting on the Arab "twilight war" which has cost the young state so dearly in many ways, Mrs. Meir said:

"Israel from the very moment of its creation wanted nothing more than it wanted peace. We would have to be mad...in order to want war...We have not forgotten for one minute the lives of the boys and girls lost in the last war, which was a victory."

"But, my friends," she continued grimly, "what good does it do us when we call for peace and from the other side there is only murder?"...

#### The Price-Tag of Peace

Israel's effort to prevent war, to maintain some measure of peace and to survive was accomplished at a heavy cost to the people of the young state.

Until the Egyptian-Soviet arms pact, Israel felt that it was in a position to meet any Arab military threat.

Prime Minister Ben Gurion told the Mission, "Egypt and the other Arab states had more arms than we, but the quality of our arms and theirs was almost the same, so we could face them as equals." He indicated that any differences would have been made up by the superior quality of Israel's manpower, even though in manpower quantity the Arabs outnumbered the Israelis twenty to one.

Then Mr. Ben Gurion continued:

"The Czech transaction last year changed the entire picture. Egypt received from the Soviet bloc the most modern weapons, which we could not equal...we were and still are in grave danger...we knew...we had to make a desperate



effort to equip our army with this same kind of armament." Then he added, "but we still are gravely inferior in the quality of our arms."

This frantic effort to obtain even a few modern arms -- one hampered by lack of sources of supply as well as money -- placed a backbreaking burden on the country's economy.

Declared Levi Eshkol, Israel's able but hard-put Minister of Finance, at a Mission session on Friday morning, October 19, "we have spent a veritable fortune buying arms abroad."

But the "fortune" to which Mr. Eshkol referred was evidently a modest one, by Arab standards.

He pointed out that Israel's Arab neighbors, endowed with comparatively great economic resources, would spend a billion dollars a year alone on armament -- many times the entire budget of the Jewish state.

The Finance Minister gave one startling indication of the costs Israel has had to face, by noting that the price tag on an up-to-date jet aircraft, with spare parts and other equipment, is half a million dollars -- and that Israel had received no free gifts of arms as had several of the Arab nations.

But the burden of actual arms was not the only Nasser-inspired drain on Israel's funds during the year.

Mr. Eshkol indicated that Israel's people had to spend 1L 60,000,000 (about \$35,000,000) for civilian defense preparations. This sum that would have been much greater but for the fact that the citizens themselves did much of the work of preparing air-raid shelters, and other installations, on a volunteer basis.

Another vast drain on the national economy and treasury alike came through the heavy call-up of manpower, since every man up to 48, and every

unmarried woman up to 34, not a full time soldier, had to put in extensive part-time duty in the reserves.

Additionally, Israel spent millions of pounds for the stockpiling of strategic reserves of fuel and food in its towns and cities.

#### The Cost to Israel's Development

These were some of the direct costs of maintaining a measure of peace. But the leaders of the country made it clear that they were not all -- that major sacrifices had been made in programs of development and immigrant absorption, thus affecting the country's progress.

Mr. Eshkol revealed that in the last twelve months 15,000 incoming immigrants were put into tin hut villages -- ma'abarot -- instead of decent housing. This is something that the people of Israel have been trying desperately to end.

"It is true," the Israel Finance Minister told us, "that these tin huts have been established away from the big cities ... but they are tin hut villages just the same. We don't call them ma'abarot -- but that's just a question of semantics." The Finance Minister revealed that the 15,000 new ma'abarot dwellers were in addition to 40,000 earlier arrivals still in old ma'abarot.

Similar retrenchment hampered the building of the second Yarkon-Negev pipeline, which fell six months behind schedule, according to Dr. Giora Josephthal. The pipeline is vital to Israel's further settlement of its dry southland.

Another cost to the country's progress came from the fact that several thousand farm families, who require one year's final assistance to complete the process of becoming self-supporting, could not get such help, owing to the lack of funds.

In all it can be said that while Israel's agricultural and industrial production rose in the last 12 months, they did so at a much slower pace than in previous years.

To this cost-sheet of survival must be added something of the tax position in which Israel's people found themselves. The average Israel citizen earned less than \$2,500 in 1956, and paid back \$220. in taxes. In addition he bore his share of a special defense tax that raised IL 60,000,000. (\$35,000,000).

#### Israel's Crowning Achievement

The security situation obviously captured the Mission's immediate attention. Dramatic as it was, however, it was not enough to obscure Israel's crowning achievement for the last year -- its continued reception of tens of thousands of refugees from lands of danger and despair, and its inspiring efforts to absorb these and earlier arrivals.

The fact was - and is - that Israel is in one of its heaviest periods of immigration.

In twelve months from October, 1955 through September, 1956, (approximately the Hebrew year 5716) the Jewish Agency helped to bring in and receive 51,000 new immigrants, chiefly from North Africa. This was 6,000 more than the Agency had planned on receiving.

"It would have been natural to expect that the shortage of money on one hand and the physical insecurity on the other would reduce the flow..."

Dr. Josephthal told us in Paris, adding: "Israel did more in taking in North African Jews than could have been expected.

"But with all that," Dr. Josephthal declared, "we didn't do enough. The conscience of the Jewish world towards the Jews of North Africa...cannot be clear. The sacrifice we all made in order to save Jews before the curtain went down was not great enough...There are 80,000 people left behind who had

already applied for emigration to Israel...".

### The Role of the Newcomer

We of the Mission were impressed to learn, and see, that not only did Israel continue to receive immigrants at an increased rate but that much of the organized effort to absorb them was maintained -- including the "ship to settlement" program.

Under this program, immigrants are brought directly from ship-side to development areas such as Lachish, southwest of Jerusalem, where housing, employment and schools are ready for the newcomers and their children. Thus a day after his arrival, the newcomer is on the way to becoming an "absorbed" citizen.

Last year called for many improvisations and short-cuts in meeting the needs of the incoming immigrants, Dr. Josephthal pointed out, and whole areas of need went untouched.

To have met properly the requirements of just those who arrived in the twelve months ending in October 1956, the Jewish Agency should have had \$51,000,000 at its disposal (at the rate of \$1,000 per immigrant). But it did not. Meanwhile, the consolidation requirements of settlements established in earlier years had to be put aside entirely because the needed \$75,000,000 was simply unavailable.

Yet, despite these drawbacks, the Jewish Agency scored some real achievements in its immigrant absorption work. Dr. Josephthal listed some of these as:

The placing of eighty-five percent of the year's newcomers on the land, mainly in Israel's pioneering areas.

The opening up of new development areas by the work of new immigrants, including the building of 30 new agricultural settlements in Lachish, to the

south, and in Ta'anach, to the north.

The fact that new immigrants played a large part in increasing Israel's agricultural production by 10 percent for the year, and industrial production by 12 percent.

In the face of increased immigration, it was possible, too, to decrease the number of people in the established ma'abarot from 60,000 at the year's beginning to 40,000 at the end.

Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol added to Dr. Josephthal's picture of immigrant absorption and achievement. He pointed out that:

More than 30,000 families -- about 120,000 people -- have been settled on the land since 1948. This is 60 percent of the agricultural population of Israel.

The Jewish Agency has helped to create new farms, as well as new farmers. In eight years more than 466 new settlements have been established, cultivating more than a million and a half dunams of land.

These settlements account for 60 percent of Israel's vegetables, and 50 percent of the country's industrial crops. They tend 30 percent of the country's milk cattle.

What we heard of the contributions of Israel's newcomers to the life of the young state was reinforced by our field visits.

In Ta'anach, perched on the edge of the Emek, hard-by the Jordan border, we ourselves saw the inspiring progress that North African newcomers are making in building up this new and important agricultural area.

Here we found trim, small farm houses stretching over the land for several miles, broad cultivated fields, community buildings going up, schools crowded with children. And we were told by Dr. Ranan Weitz, the Jewish Agency's vigorous and able Director of Settlement, that only a year before the

Ta'anach region was nothing but empty space.

In Lachish, in Israel's south, we saw an even more extensive development. In our Mission were members who recalled that a year ago there were only six just-erected settlements in this centuries-empty region -- the biblical home of the Philistines. Now there were more than twenty, linked in a full-fledged regional plan.

### Rescue - The Task Ahead

If 1956 presented Israel's people with two impossible burdens, what shall we say of 1957?

A year ago Israel's people faced an enormous security problem. Much has happened since -- but the security problem if anything, is more grim.

A year ago the flow of immigration began to rise. This year, every indication is that immigration will reach flood-tide.

In the twelve months that ended October 1, 1956, Israel received 51,000 immigrants.

But for the twelve months that will end October 1, 1957 -- the Jewish Agency anticipates 60,000 - and perhaps more - depending on developments.

Already, in October, the first 9,000 arrived as Israel had its heaviest immigration month in many years. November is not expected to see any particular let-up, nor is December.

By January, 1957, before most American communities will have begun their 1957 campaigns, 20,000 Jews -- a third of those scheduled to come, may be in Israel already!

What should be clearly understood is that this is not ordinary immigration. For the most part, it is not even comparable to the "last minute" immigration that was brought out of Morocco before the curtain went down on

group movement on June 11, 1956.

Instead, this is rescue immigration, men and women who are coming out from behind doors that were thought closed.

Yet the agonizing thought that gnaws at the very conscience of the people of Israel is that they are not doing enough to take in all who clamor to come.

No one expressed this more tellingly than S. Z. Shragai, Jewish Agency Executive Member, and head of its Immigration Department.

Speaking to the Mission on our first conference day, he told us how he was forced last year to cable one of his assistants, stationed in a Moslem land, to cancel the flow of Israel-bound emigrants.

The distinguished immigration director said he could not put out of his mind the thought of the waiting thousands whose hopes he had cut off because he was without funds. He added: "and my hand shook as I wrote the order."

The fact is that the pressure of immigration is so heavy, and in recent years, has been so heavy that it constitutes a full-scale emergency of itself.

Some 90,000 immigrants entered the country in the two years prior to October, 1956. This is a decided upturn from Israel's low immigration years of 1953-54.

Some measure of the burden of this immigration can be gained from the fact that the Jewish Agency estimates that it costs about \$1,000 per immigrant per year for three years to complete his absorption and help him become self-supporting.

In 1957 it may require \$60,000,000 then to transport and begin the first year's absorption of the 60,000 who are scheduled to come.

This is surely a vast sum. But what of the costs for going ahead with

Jewish Appeal. And we must ask it."

What We Must Do

We who were members of the Mission concluded our stay in Israel by convening in private session in Jerusalem. We met on the evening of October 24.

Our purpose in so doing was to try to arrive at a standard of participation which we might recommend to American Jews for 1957, and above all, for ourselves.

Behind us was the experience of 1956.

In a year of great emergency -- American Jews had adopted a Special Survival Fund to seek funds for the rescue of threatened Jews in North Africa, over and above the sums that were expected to be raised through the UJA's regular campaign.

That this extra fund-raising had made a difference -- had permitted the people of Israel to assume the burden of security unhampered by the burden of making vast provision for the newcomers -- we now knew at first hand.

We had seen the effects of our labors in the quiet and proud faces of Israel's recent arrivals, settled in homes of their own, building lives of their own in freedom and dignity.

We had seen it, as well in the faces of the youth of the land -- the smiling, happy faces from whose eyes flashed the look of the free and the unafraid.

We had seen it too, in the homes and centers for the aged and the handicapped -- places that brought peace and happiness to the lives of Jewish men and women who had known the very worst of the Hitler years.

Above all, we had seen the meaning of our help in the shining eyes of those who stepped down from planes and ships to the free soil of Israel. In the passage of a glorious moment, we watched men, women and children step out



from behind the dark curtains of despair and death into the bright light of hope and freedom.

All these thoughts, and many more, were with us in Jerusalem as we considered what we should recommend.

Then, we declared:\*

"While the very life of Israel has been at stake, the great task for which Israel was created has not been forgotten.

"The true meaning of Israel is that it offers refuge and life to those who must come here. With deepest admiration we note that the people of Israel received 51,000 newcomers in the last year and maintained strenuous efforts to integrate these and thousands of earlier arrivals.

"We are proud that through UJA's regular campaign and through the Special Fund, American Jews shared in making possible these great deeds of human rescue and restoration.

"But our satisfaction must be accompanied by a recognition of grim realities.

"The fact is that the people of Israel face yet another year of severest trial and utmost danger.

"The fact is that immigration has not diminished -- but flows on at a greater pace than last year and may reach 60,000 in the next twelve months.

"The fact is that for tens of thousands this will be a 'life or death immigration' -- for they are Jews who must come now from lands of terror and persecution and tomorrow may be too late.

"Above all, the fact is that the people of Israel, burdened with the terrible and enormous cost of self-preservation, cannot pay for this immigration, ready as they are to welcome newcomers.

\* The full text of the resolution is given on page 20.

And now we went on to say:

"It is clear...that American Jews must find the way by which great extra sums can accrue to the United Jewish Appeal for its humanitarian purposes.

"Therefore, this 1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, profoundly moved by the quiet heroism of Israel's people -- determined to stand by their side in this critical hour -- eager to help maintain the life-line for those who must yet come to Israel -- makes the urgent and pressing recommendation that 1957 see the adoption of an extraordinary campaign to secure the great additional funds needed.

"We further recommend that the details of this effort be worked out and submitted to an emergency meeting of American Jewish communal leaders to be convoked November 30, 1956, the day before the Annual National Conference of the UJA."

It is to this Conference that we now present this report.

It is the Conference which can speak for American Jewry and which can and must decide the next steps.

One thing is clear -- whatever was the need when we drew up our resolution -- it is even greater now.

Who does not see that 1957 poses the most overwhelming threat the people of Israel have ever faced? A David of democracy finds itself confronted by a Goliath of totalitarianism and the outcome is far from certain. A dream realized after 2,000 years stands in danger of becoming only a dream again,

Yet, we are those who believe with the people of Israel themselves, that the miracles of yesterday did not happen in vain. We believe there are new miracles to be made -- and American Jewry must help make them.

In Paris, Dr. Giora Josephthal closed a moving address by dipping deep into the spiritual well from which generations of Jews have sustained

themselves in face of trial, danger and disaster.

From the Talmud, he quoted the following passage:

"The day is short, the labor is great, the workmen are slothful, the reward is great, the master is pressing. It is not for us to complete the work, but neither are we free to desist from it."

We are not free -- and we would not wish to be free -- to desist from this work of our Jewish generation.

Report Committee  
1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission  
New York, November 27.



RESOLUTION  
1956 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION  
JERUSALEM

October, 1956

We, the members of the 1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission have assembled in Jerusalem after seeing much of Israel, meeting with its heroic people and hearing from its inspired leaders.

Our visit here was preceded by a meeting with the leaders and country directors of the Joint Distribution Committee in Paris. There we heard vividly described the still pressing needs of Jews in Moslem lands, Europe and other areas.

We came to an Israel which for a year has lived under the shadow of a supreme threat to its very existence - posed by the Egyptian-Soviet arms deal twelve months ago.

We came to an Israel menaced also by a great new threat -- the stepped-up activity of lawless, armed killers from hostile neighbors, striking at unarmed civilians and placing every citizen in danger of his life.

In the face of this the people of Israel, at the cost of enormous personal sacrifice, have bolstered their security, increased their armed strength and added to the protection of their homes and civilian population.

They have done so in the belief that the strongest hope for peace and the only deterrent to aggression is a strong, adequately armed Israel. They have spent vast sums for their security needs.

Yet while the very life of Israel has been at stake, the great task for which Israel was created has not been forgotten.

The true meaning of Israel is that it offers refuge and life to those who must come here. With deepest admiration we note that the people of Israel received 51,000 newcomers in the last year and maintained strenuous efforts to integrate these and thousands of earlier arrivals.

We are proud that through UJA's regular campaign and through the Special Fund, American Jews shared in making possible these great deeds of human rescue and restoration.

But our satisfaction must be accompanied by a recognition of grim realities.

The fact is that the people of Israel face yet another year of severest trial and utmost danger.

The fact is that immigration has not diminished -- but flows on at an even greater pace than last year and may reach 60,000 in the next twelve months.

The fact is that for tens of thousands this will be a "life or death" immigration -- for they are Jews who must come now from lands of terror and persecution, and tomorrow may be too late.

Above all, the fact is that the people of Israel, burdened with the terrible and enormous cost of self preservation, cannot pay for this immigration, ready as they are to welcome the newcomers.

It is clear to us that only greatly increased funds can assure the rescue and survival of all those who call for help in coming.

It is equally clear that American Jews must find the way by which great extra sums can accrue to the United Jewish Appeal for its humanitarian purposes.

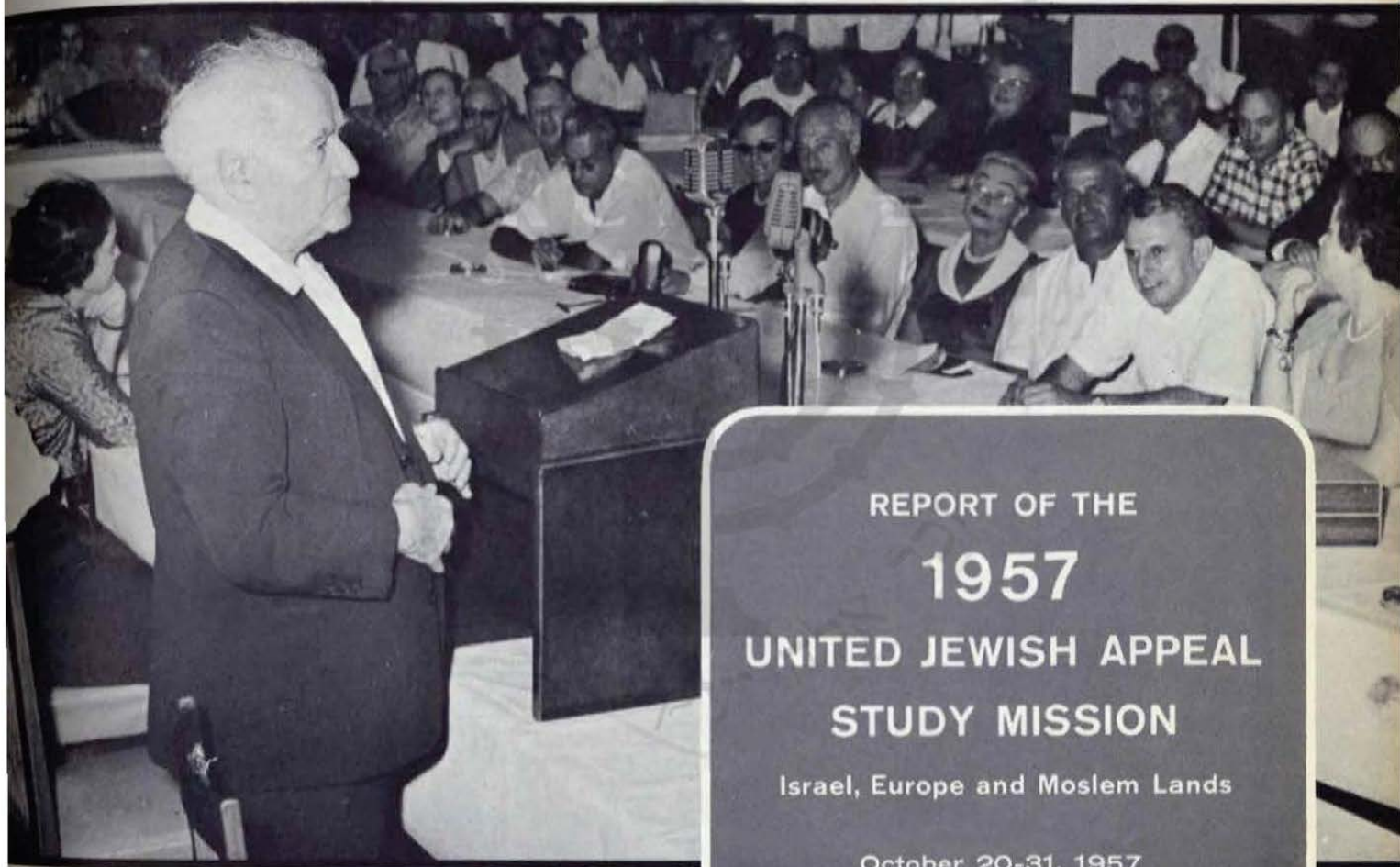
Therefore, this 1956 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, profoundly moved by the quiet heroism of Israel's people, determined to stand by their side in this critical hour, eager to help maintain the life-line for those who must yet come to Israel,

makes the urgent and pressing recommendation that 1957 see the adoption of an extraordinary campaign to secure the great additional funds needed.

We further recommend that the details of this effort be worked out and submitted to an emergency meeting of American Jewish communal leaders to be convened November 30, 1956, the day before the Annual National Conference of the UJA.

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# YEAR OF REDEDICATION



REPORT OF THE  
**1957**  
UNITED JEWISH APPEAL  
STUDY MISSION

Israel, Europe and Moslem Lands

October 20-31, 1957

NOTE: This report of the 1957 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission is furnished to you because it is felt that you should have the important information it contains. The material, however, is only for your personal use. You are asked therefore not to reprint the report in whole, or in part, or to give out parts of it for newspaper quotation.

## YEAR OF REDEDICATION



Israel Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion calls on the UJA Study Mission to join with the people of Israel in a year of re-dedication in 1958.

### A REPORT TO AMERICAN JEWRY

*by the 1957 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission*

**“YOU HAVE BEEN MEETING** on the eve of Israel’s observance of its Tenth Anniversary. We shall be seeking, in our celebrations in the coming year, to give tangible expression to the spirit of modern Israel in its restored independence. But these celebrations are not intended as a resting on laurels. Rather will it be a year of re-dedication to the great tasks that lie ahead. The record of achievement in our first decade shows what can be done, given the will, energy and spirit of pioneering of the people of Israel, and the idealism, generosity and solidarity of world Jewry, notably the great Jewish community of the United States. This should serve as a spur to high endeavor during the next decade.”

Confined to his bed because of the shocking inci-

dent in the Knesset on October 29, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion could not, as planned, be with the concluding session of the 1957 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, in Jerusalem. Instead, he sent us a stirring message in which he outlined Israel’s aims for its second decade. The foregoing is an excerpt from that message.

On the basis of what we saw and heard in Paris, Vienna and Israel—where our survey carried us—we could reach only one inescapable conclusion, that for the Jews of the United States, no less than for the Jews of Israel, the year ahead must be one of supreme “re-dedication to the great tasks that lie ahead.” In this report, we shall try to indicate why we arrived at this final judgment.

## Composition and Scope of Mission

In size we constituted the largest United Jewish Appeal Study Mission yet, for, with wives, we made up a total of 120 persons.

Among us were representatives of some 40 American Jewish communities extending from one coast to the other. Most of us had never been to Israel before, and had never had the opportunity to learn at first hand of the work supported overseas by American Jews.

Our purpose in going, each at his own expense, was to inspect and assess this work so that we might be able to report to our communities on what had been accomplished and what, in our opinion, American Jews should undertake to raise through the UJA in 1958.

Our itinerary included three days in Paris (October 20 through October 22) where we were privileged to participate in the Annual Country Directors Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee.

In addition, a special sub-committee of our group journeyed to Vienna, the point where the Iron Curtain parts slightly, to look into Jewish refugee conditions there. Since the end of World War II, Vienna has served as the transit center for hundreds of thousands

of Jews from Poland, Hungary and Rumania fleeing from those countries in quest of a new life. Today it continues as the initial stopover on the way to freedom.

This time, in Vienna, our sub-committee met with a trainload of uprooted Polish Jews who had just crossed the border and were on their way to Israel. It also met with some of the residue (currently numbering 2,000) of the 18,000 Hungarian Jews who fled Hungary following the fall, 1956 uprising.

Then, on October 23 all of us reassembled in Israel. There, we spent eight full days hearing from the country's leaders and technicians in both the Government and the Jewish Agency, in touring the country and in learning at first-hand of Israel's problems and progress in immigration, newcomer absorption, economic development and related matters.

Above all, we met and talked with the people of Israel themselves—with newly arrived immigrants, recent settlers, long time inhabitants, scientists, business men, and average citizens from many walks of life.

And, of course, as we criss-crossed Israel, we saw the miracle of its achievements as evidenced by its growing cities, its new settlements and increasingly cultivated landscape.

UJA Mission sub-committee led by Morris W. Bernstein, UJA President, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, Executive Vice-Chairman, inspecting Vienna refugee camp housing 2,000 Hungarian-Jewish refugees.







Paris: UJA Honorary Chairman Edward M. M. Warburg of New York discusses Israel's 1958 immigration program with Jewish Agency Treasurer Dr. Dov Joseph.



Jerusalem: Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and UJA President Morris W. Berinstein of New York talk over Israel's economic position.

### Paris Meeting, Vienna Visit and Israel

Our stay in Paris with the Joint Distribution Committee left us stirred and impressed by the heroic overseas work which American Jews support, and by the able and dedicated men who carry it forward.

In Vienna those of us who met the trainload of Jews from Poland could hardly suppress our tears when we realized that the people before our eyes were among the last of a once great Jewish community in the final process of liquidation—one which history had dealt a cruel fate. It was the case of brother meeting brother. As much was expressed in the exchange of glances as in the spoken word. We were grateful for ourselves and all American Jewry, that we could play a part in the rescue and transplanting of this handful of people and of those remaining in Poland who, hopefully, would follow.

Of Israel, Edward M. M. Warburg, Honorary Chairman of the UJA, summed up our feelings at our closing dinner in Jerusalem on October 31, when he said:

"Above all we have been made conscious of the fact that we are in a land where people have harnessed every force of mind and heart to give form, substance and order to one of the greatest visions that has ever stirred the minds of men. We have been inspired, charmed, excited and deeply moved by this great drama of human freedom and hope called Israel."

### The Needs Outside of Israel

At our Paris Conference sessions, we received truly "behind the scenes" reports of the developments affecting Jews in many critical areas.

It is axiomatic that what happens in these areas has a bearing on the dimensions of the problem the Jews of the United States and the people of Israel will deal with in 1958. The reports we received were made by men who could speak with authority.

### The Jews of North Africa

The twelve months that have passed since the last UJA Study Mission have seen enormous changes take place in the position of most of the Jews of four Moslem countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt.

The first three countries, commonly referred to as North Africa, hold approximately 400,000 Jews, of whom 200,000 are in the newly established, single political entity of the Sherifian Empire of Morocco (incorporating both French Morocco and Spanish Morocco and the former free port of Tangier).

Some 65,000 more are in the newly independent Republic of Tunisia. There are 135,000 more in Algeria, wracked by a French-Arab nationalist civil war, but considered by the French part of Metropolitan France.

In Israel's first nine years more than 110,000 Jews



Jerusalem: Mrs. Paula Ben-Gurion, wife of the Prime Minister, UJA National Chairman Dewey D. Stone of Boston and Gershon Agron, Mayor of Jerusalem, shown at closing dinner.



Jerusalem: National Chairman Sol Luckman of Cincinnati and Mr. Eshkol talk over the role of American Jewry in 1958.

left Morocco to go to the Jewish State. Several thousand more, holding French papers, went to France or emigrated to Latin America.

The most dramatic changes in the Jewish position in North Africa have resulted from the fact that France only recently gave up its authority in Morocco and Tunisia, and finds itself fighting a costly war to continue its ties with Algeria.

The position of the Jews of North Africa as it exists today was summed up by one speaker at the Paris meeting in these words:

"All over North Africa we are dealing with a worried, harassed Jewish population. They don't know which way to turn. In Morocco they want to get out and can't . . . In Tunisia, some can get out, but they don't know whether they should go out today or tomorrow, or what . . . In Algeria, Jews are being pushed around. They don't know what to do . . ."

#### **The Situation in Morocco**

Yet another speaker described the situation of Morocco's Jews in this statement:

"Almost without exception these 200,000 Jews . . . who represent Jews who have lived here for generations . . . are coming to an end . . . They feel the Moroccan earth is not the earth on which a Jewish life can continue to prosper . . ."

We learned that Morocco has halted the group

movement of Jews to Israel such as took place previous to Moroccan independence. In its place an unofficial emigration sprang up. While we were in Paris, word reached our meeting that 1,500 Jews were being held in Tangier (the embarkation port for Israel) by Moroccan authorities, determined to prevent their going on to Israel.

Declared a speaker to the Mission, "Morocco is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One of the cardinal principles of that Declaration is the right of free movement of persons and property. Yet, today, you cannot get a passport in Morocco except under the most difficult circumstances."

#### **The JDC's Role in Morocco**

It is worth emphasizing that the Joint Distribution Committee in Morocco has no connection officially or unofficially with actual emigration from Morocco. JDC, however, with official approval, is meeting the emergency needs of the 1,500 penniless, would-be emigrants held back at Tangier.

The main job of JDC in Morocco continues to be that of meeting the welfare and rehabilitation needs of the impoverished Jews of that country. These have been growing seriously. Some 50,000 Jews—40,000 of them children—are fed daily, and their number, which embraces one-fourth of the Jewish population, is mounting rapidly. We were told, "For the vast majority of people whom we help this is a life or death matter and nothing less than that."



Big Gifts Chairman Max M. Fisher of Detroit arrives in Israel. Behind him, Mrs. Michael H. Katz, Mission member from Kansas City.



Campaign Cabinet Vice-Chairman Fred Forman of Rochester shares a laugh with two young refugees in a camp near Vienna.



UJA Executive Vice-Chairman Herbert A. Friedman discusses immigration hopes of this refugee mother and child in Vienna.

Since Morocco became independent it not only has ended group emigration to Israel, but has withdrawn recognition of the Central Federation of Jewish Communities, thus precipitating a breakdown of organized Jewish life. Added to this hardship is the fact that the Jews are the chief victims of the current economic dislocation in Morocco.

So difficult is this situation, that one speaker expressed the opinion that "if today you pulled up the necessary boats into the harbor at Casablanca, you could load them with tens of thousands of Moroccan Jews and take them off to Israel without any question whatsoever!"

### Tunisia—A Different Problem

Tunisia, Morocco's neighbor to the east, presents more subtle problems for its 65,000 Jews, 50,000 of them living in and around the city of Tunis. Here the pressure is for submersion into the now dominant Arab culture, with abandonment of Jewish schools and other instruments for maintaining a Jewish way of life.

The movement to Israel from Tunisia is some 500 a month. The feeling is that as long as it does not go beyond this level it will be permitted to continue. Yet probably many more would leave, if they felt free to do so. It is estimated that about 2,000 will leave in 1958 for countries other than Israel.

### Algeria—A Tragic Dilemma

The Jewish position in Algeria is tragic. Jews are being pressed to take sides with the French *colon* against the Arab Nationalist, and the Arab Nationalist against the French.



Albert A. Levin of Cleveland, UJA Chairman for Regions, makes friends with a child immigrant from Poland, aboard the SS *Allyah*.

Thus, the Jewish position is daily growing more painful. About 2,000 Algerian Jews a year are moving towards Israel, and a similar number towards France. But the threat is ever-present that this number may rise suddenly and drastically should their situation deteriorate further.

### Egypt's Vanishing Jewish Community

With regard to the position of Egypt's Jews, it is well to remember that in a single year this ancient community, which had played an impressive role in Egypt's economic and cultural life, was all but destroyed. Since last fall half of its 50,000 members were either forcibly expelled or fled in panic and the remaining half, bewildered and broken, constitute the refugees of tomorrow.

Nasser's attack on Egypt's Jews, launched last November, was more than retaliation for his defeat in the Sinai. It bore the earmarks of a long-planned, Nazi-type effort to seize Jewish assets and make the country "Judenrein."

For the moment, there is an easing in the pressures which caused Jews to flee in such great numbers in the spring of 1957. But the economic and psychological position of the Jews remaining in Egypt continues to be untenable. As one of Israel's recent Egyptian immigrants told our Mission, the Jews still in Egypt are in the process of liquidating their possessions in preparation for their departure. About 500 per month continue to leave.

We learned that some 13,000 of the 26,000 Egyptian refugees who fled arrived in Israel in 1957. Another 11,000 found their way into France and



Cabinet Member Sol Satinsky of Philadelphia arrives in Israel at Lydda Airport from Paris conference of the Joint Distribution Committee.



Cabinet Member I. D. Fink (left) of Minneapolis witnesses this happy reunion in Haifa of immigrant from Poland and sister.



Kiryat Gat: UJA Cabinet Member Barney Rapaport (right) and A. I. Savin of Hartford, Conn. (left) examine cotton grown in Lachish.



Cabinet Member Irving Norry of Rochester, N. Y., is greeted by President and Mrs. Ben Zvi at reception for Mission at Beit Hanassi.

thousands of these now constitute a great new burden on French Jewry, which is assisted by the JDC.

A majority of these refugees plus certain Hungarian refugees still in Austria, go to make up a potential 10,000 Jewish refugees who will require help of UJA's agencies in being resettled and absorbed in Western lands in 1958, including the United States. New immigration legislation enacted by Congress in September, 1957 should make it possible for up to 6,000 Jewish refugees from Egypt and other areas to come to the United States during 1958.

### Emigration Again from Poland

The year 1957 saw the Iron Curtain lifted a bit, providing 35,000 Jews with a chance to leave Poland. This emigration, the first approved immigration to Israel from an East European land in half a decade, has a remarkable background.

The change in the Polish government on October 13, 1956 which returned Wladyslaw Gomulka to the post of First Secretary of the Communist Party represents the starting point. This change was accompanied by a general liberalization policy including the removal of restraints on freedom of speech and press. No sooner was this change of climate felt when the endemic anti-semitism of the Polish population re-emerged, with shattering impact on the Polish Jews. A thoroughgoing

Communist, Gomulka nonetheless was impressed with the fact that the some 70,000 Jews remaining in Poland still clung to their Jewishness. It is to his credit that he spoke out against the pathological anti-semitism of his countrymen. When this proved to be of no avail, he evidently concluded that the only solution to the problem was to permit the Jews to leave.

Thus the first mass movement of Polish Jews began last fall, rising to a feverish peak in late spring and summer of 1957. The movement was explained by the Polish authorities as a humanitarian gesture to permit the reunion of families which the war and post-war period had separated and dislocated.

### The Repatriates from Russia

Simultaneous with the renewal of emigration from Poland to Israel, the Gomulka regime reached an agreement with the Soviet Union on a program for repatriating tens of thousands of Polish citizens who found themselves in the USSR at the end of World War II. Of the 90,000 or so of these repatriates who have arrived in Poland, approximately 15,000 have been Jews.

Initially these returnees—bringing with them as the saying goes, "nothing but their ten fingers in their pockets"—were permitted to go on directly to Israel. But, subsequently, following Russian pressure, an embargo was placed against their exit.

UJA Mission lays wreath on grave of Israel's first President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, at Rehovot. Standing with Mrs. Weizmann: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, and National Chairman Dewey D. Stone, who is also Chairman of the Weizmann Institute.



By summer of 1957 the Polish authorities found that they had acquired some 10,000 additional Jews, all of them needing shelter, food, employment and other aid. It was then that word was passed on to the Joint Distribution Committee that the Polish Government would welcome the re-entry of the JDC in Poland after an absence of eight years, to help the Jewish repatriates. The same offer was extended to the ORT, an agency largely financed by the JDC.

Charles Jordan, Director General of JDC's Overseas Operations, journeyed to Warsaw and came to an agreement based on government assurances of non-interference in the program. Thus, at this writing, the JDC will again serve Jews inside Poland, providing them with food and assisting them to settle down.

In addition to those Jewish repatriates already in Poland, it is anticipated that another 10,000-15,000 will arrive before the end of 1958. The agreement between the Polish and Russian governments which serves as the basis for this repatriation move, is scheduled to expire in December of next year.

Poland is not the only East European community that contributed immigration to Israel in 1957. As the world is well aware—180,000 Hungarians broke out of their country and fled into Austria, at the time of the popular uprising against Communist oppression that began on October 23, 1956.

Ten per cent of those who fled—or 18,000—were Jews. It should be a matter of both relief and pride to American Jewry that, thanks to the splendid and co-operating efforts of the Jewish Agency, the United Hias Service and the Joint Distribution Committee, all of them beneficiaries of the UJA, the emergency was met and solved.

The good will of many Western governments provided special emigration opportunities to large numbers of the refugees, but it was the efficiency and devotion of the men and women of the above agencies that played a primary role in turning these opportunities into realized facts.

As noted earlier, only 2,000 of the Hungarian Jewish refugees remain in the camps of Austria. Our subcommittee spoke to members of this group and learned that the hope and desire on their part to join members of their families in the United States, and in other Western countries, militates against their migrating to Israel—the only country in the world presently ready to receive them.

It is worth noting also that there was additional authorized immigration from behind the Iron Curtain in 1957 to Israel, and there is hope that this migration will continue through 1958.

The whole story of present day relations with East European Jewry is a delicate and complicated one and

In Jerusalem, the Mission was received by Israel President and Mrs. Itzak Ben Zvi at Beit Hanassi. On behalf of the Mission Mr. Warburg presented this print, an abstract rendering of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet by the noted American artist Ben Shahn.



does not readily lend itself to public discussion. But in general, it should be borne in mind that there are hundreds of thousands of Jews in East European countries who yearn to migrate to Israel.

While we were in Israel, we found the people excited over the stories brought back of their encounter with Russian Jewry by members of the Israel Youth Delegation who had just participated in the Moscow Youth Festival. This was an encounter, on the one hand, of self-sufficient, self-assured Sabras who are reputed to be indifferent to Jewry abroad and, on the other hand, a Jewry which for 40 years had been subjected to a policy calculated to suffocate it spiritually. Yet, when these two groups met, differences between them vanished amidst embraces and tears.

As one Sabra put it in a newspaper interview: "You would hardly believe it but our Sabras turned out on this occasion to be much more sentimental than we ever suspected them of being." Avraham Harman, the distinguished former Israel Consul General for New York and now a member of the Jewish Agency Executive, summarized the meeting between the young Israelis and the Russian Jews in these words:

"The meeting . . . was a rediscovery by two branches of the Jewish people of each other's existence and a renewed experience of sharing a common Jewish fate and aspiring to a common Jewish future."

What excited the Israelis most was that the young Jews of Russia, born and bred under the Soviet regime, had retained their Jewish consciousness and obviously identified themselves with Jews everywhere.

## THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES YOUNGSTERS OF ISRAEL



Just arrived. The Mission met these Polish Jewish children on the SS Aliyah in Haifa as they were about to begin their new life in the Jewish state.



From North Africa. This young miss and her brother were two immigrants who came to Israel aboard the SS Aliyah from economically depressed Morocco.



From Egypt. This pretty girl, her sister and brother were driven out of Egypt. Now Israel beckons.



Neve Hadassah. At this Youth Aliyah village the Mission heard an excellent children's orchestra.

Is it too farfetched to suppose that the day may come when great numbers of Jews from the Soviet Union and from other areas which Jews are not free to leave, are furnished with the opportunity to go to Israel? The evidence of the past year is that the situation is not frozen.

This point is made because we feel that the people of Israel are realistic in fixing their eyes on the day that will yet see this great reunion. *One of the principal aims of Israel's people in 1958, as we were to learn, is to get things in such shape that if this "return of the captives" were to begin tomorrow, they would be able to rise to the challenge it would present.*

### The Needs in Israel

The UJA Study Mission which came into Israel

October 23, arrived in a country that is about to complete its first ten years of existence—ten years of growth, in the midst of ten years of crisis.

The very nature of Israel's birth and development, which has taken place in a surrounding area terrifying in its hostility, was bound to produce a continuing crisis.

But what may not be apparent in the year-in and year-out consideration of Israel's emergencies, is the remarkable development and inspiring progress which its people have made and which should, in the course of time, lead to economic self-sufficiency and independence.

The information we received from authoritative Israel sources was impressive. Among other things we learned were:

## - THE HOPE OF TOMORROW



Waitresses. These charming young girls served the Mission members a delicious supper at Neve Hadassah, Youth Aliyah home.



Entertainers. The entertainment group of Nahal, Israel's farmer-frontiersmen, provided an evening of inspiring song and fun.



Welcoming Committee. At Neora, a Lachish village, these youngsters welcomed us.



Dancers. The teen-agers of Neora entertained the Mission with Israeli dances based on Biblical themes.



# HIGH SPOTS OF T



Thursday, October 24 — Mission visits an "Ulpan" school; hears Jewish Agency Executive Member Yehuda Braginsky explain the "crash program" for teaching Hebrew to new immigrants.



Saturday, October 26 — At Oneg Shabbat at Sharon Hotel Prime Minister Ben-Gurion greets recent immigrants who were guests of Mission.

## AMERICAN JEWISH



Sunday Afternoon, October 27 — We visit Malben hospital for chronically ill immigrants at Nahariya.



Sunday Afternoon, October 27 — We inspect the Technion — and hear how it serves Israel.



Tuesday, October 29 — We visit thriving Lachish development area settled by immigrants who built it from scratch in only three years.



Monday, October 28 — We inspect Israel's new copper mines at Timna, near the site of King Solomon's mines of Biblical fame.



Thursday, October 28 — Prime Minister Ben-Gurion greets Mrs. Ben-Gurion in place of the Prime Minister. Mrs. Ben-Gurion kept to his hospital. Mrs. Ben-Gurion: "You are the best of us." — continue!

# THE MISSION'S VISIT



Saturday Evening, October 26—Mission members are entertained by the children of Neve Hadassah, an outstanding Youth Aliyah home.



Sunday Morning, October 27—We board the SS Aliyah at Haifa and witness the disembarkation of 566 newcomers from Eastern Europe and North Africa.



Monday, October 28—We fly to Eilat, Israel's "Window on the Red Sea."



General Moshe Dayan, substituting for the Prime Minister, passes out official souvenirs to Mission members—this one to Dewey D. Stone. (Thursday, October 31)



Thursday, October 31—At closing dinner in Jerusalem, Max M. Fisher reads Resolution calling for another special effort in 1958.



31—Honorary Chair-  
Warburg congratu-  
on, who spoke briefly  
the Minister who was  
bed by the October  
outrage. Said Mrs.  
lid a very good work

Most of the food which Israel now eats is grown and processed in the country.

The Israeli now wears Israel-made shoes and Israel-made clothing produced from cloth woven in Israel, from yarns spun in Israel, from cotton locally grown or wool locally produced.

The Israeli now lives in houses built with Israel cement, reinforced with steel bars drawn in Israel rolling mills, and furnished with Israel-made furniture and appliances.

Israel's exports in 1957 amounted to \$200 million, representing an increase of 15 to 20 per cent over 1956.

Israel is rapidly developing its maritime power and plans to augment its present Merchant Marine of 35 vessels (200,000 tons) to a fleet of 60 vessels (500,000 tons) in five years.

But even more impressive was what we were able to see for ourselves. Wherever we went we saw formerly arid and desert land that had been converted into fertile fields, mountain slopes cleared of rock and covered with new saplings, difficult terrain brought under cultivation, clusters of new settlements, and feverish building activity everywhere.

High spots of our itinerary were our visits to Kiryat Gat, an industrial center and nearby Neora, a rural center, in the Lachish development area and to Eilat. In Kiryat Gat and Neora some of the members of our group could recall that but a short time ago these busy settlements were part of a raw, dusty frontier area just moving off the drawing-boards. Now we stood in the midst of a "going concern," an area of nearly 25 towns and 25,000 people—a place of farms, schools, factories, homes, synagogues and roads.

The day we spent in Eilat, Israel's port of tomorrow, was a memorable experience. In the hour's flight from Lydda to the Gulf of Aqaba we got a swift visual picture of the Negev. And, when in Eilat, we were told by Mordecai Bentov, Israel Minister of Development, of plans for the exploitation of the mineral and other resources of the Negev, we could not help but recall part of what Prime Minister Ben-Gurion told us several days after our arrival in Israel.

"National security," Mr. Ben-Gurion declared, "is a great responsibility. But this is not the main problem. It is not our ideal to become an armed camp. What we want to do is to fight nature, because Moses—and I cannot quarrel with him—chose this country, and this country in its greatest part is desert . . . We cannot

leave it as a desert. We know we can change it and we are determined to do so."

What has been accomplished in Eilat despite its dust, roughness and oppressive heat—its fast growing community, the Timna copper mine about to go into production, its Philip Murray Cultural Center—is ample proof of the settled determination of the people of Israel to win this battle with nature, a battle as dramatic, and in every respect more difficult, than the spectacular Sinai campaign.

We were given the opportunity to visit the three leading educational and scientific institutions of the country: the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, the Technion in Haifa, and the new campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

By any standard these are impressive institutions of higher learning. But having been built while Israel was concerned with problems of sheer physical survival as a nation and absorbing 900,000 recent immigrants, these institutions can only excite one's profound admiration. The institutions give point to the eloquent words spoken by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion in his address to our group: "Our aim is not to produce a Jewish Sparta, a fighting people. It is our intention to produce a great civilization of which every Jew in the world will be proud."

### **Israel's Achievements on the Human Level**

Everywhere in Israel it is conceded that Israel's greatest accomplishment during its first decade has consisted of bringing in more than 900,000 immigrants and, in the words of Levi Eshkol, Israel's distinguished Minister of Finance, "creating the economic framework for their fruitful absorption."

However, the simple and most striking fact about Israel is its high sense of responsibility towards the newcomers. In this respect this country is perhaps unique among the nations of the world. Everywhere else in the world, the new immigrant is left to himself to make his adjustments to his new environment.

In Israel, the Jewish Agency, the philanthropic body charged by the people of Israel with meeting newcomer needs, plus the Government, regard it as their solemn responsibility to help the individual reach the point where he becomes a productive and economically independent member of society. As Avraham Harman put it, "this reduces itself to so many houses and so many jobs and so many hospitals and so many classrooms and so many other utilities that are needed

for a new population." Inherent in this situation is the voluntary responsibility we, the Jews of America, are called upon to assume. *Obviously, a less humane, less moral and less Jewish approach to the problem of the newcomer would lessen our share of the burden.*

Wherever we went in Israel, we saw proof of Israel's unique sense of responsibility toward the newcomer. We met an immigrant ship in Haifa where we observed 566 Jews from Poland, Egypt and Morocco receiving assurance of housing, and guidance in employment and in all problems related to integration into the country.

The experience on this ship, the SS Aliyah, was a moving one. Children clung to the railing, looking out eagerly on the houses and hills of Haifa, wondering what their new life would hold for them. Men and women told us in brief, hesitant phrases where they had come from and why they had chosen to leave their former lands. Some betrayed uncertainty about the future. However, about this they were clear: they were coming to a country where they would be free, and a land where never again would they or their children have hurled at them as an epithet the word "Jew." Behind the concern in their eyes over the practical things of tomorrow there was already another look, the proud, free look that is the mark of the Israeli.

We visited one of Israel's specialized schools for teaching Hebrew known as an "Ulpan." Here we saw immigrants from 17 countries receiving intensive courses in Hebrew to prepare them for useful pursuits. These immigrants were being fully maintained while they were pursuing their course of studies.

At Bat Yam we saw a housing area for new immigrants from Eastern Europe and spoke with recent arrivals from Poland and Rumania. These people had come to Israel but a short time ago, virtually penniless, and yet they already had received a place to live, and the simple furnishings with which to start a new life.

At Beth Alazari, we saw a Small-Holders settlement made up of immigrants who came to Israel shortly after the War of Independence and who, receiving land and the tools for working it, had already gained self-sufficiency. This was a proud and happy lot of people.

We visited the Malben Hospital for Chronic Diseases at Nahariya, a JDC institution, where we observed severely handicapped immigrants receiving the benefits of the best that is available in the field of occupational therapy. It was touching to see human beings who in many lands would be abandoned, given the feeling that they were potentially useful members of society.

UJA Mission members examine the plight of residents of a ma'abara near Bat Yam, many of whom have been in Israel several years. Some 18,000 families still must call these shack towns "home."



# SOME WHO ADDRESSED THE MISSION

In addition to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who spoke October 26, Mission members heard reports and talks by top figures in the Government, Jewish Agency and its own leadership, on Israel's progress and problems.



Finance Minister  
**Levi Eshkol,**  
Opens Sessions



**Dr. Nahum Goldmann,**  
Chairman of the  
Jewish Agency



**Avraham Harman,**  
Member of the Jewish Agency  
Executive



**Moses A. Leavitt,**  
Executive Vice-Chairman, JDC



**Theodore Kollek,**  
Director General,  
Prime Minister's Office

At Neve Hadassah Youth Village, we were the guests of Youth Aliyah and its outstanding leader, Moshe Kol, member of the Jewish Agency Executive. There, we had the opportunity to see an inspiring assembly of children, from many lands, most of them orphans who are given the most tender care, and prepared for a productive life. Above all, they are made to feel wanted for their own sake and needed to help build the land. These children entertained us with group dances and songs that we shall long remember.

Perhaps the most poignant experience—one which illustrates the value placed on human life in Israel—was provided during a visit at the Tel Hashomer hospital, near Tel Aviv. About 80 per cent of the patients

at this state-supported hospital are immigrants without means. There, in one of the rooms of the children's ward, we found several infants in their cribs. One of the children was hardly more than a small bundle of bones. The child was suffering from undernourishment, and had been taken by the Israel authorities from his Yemenite parents who believed that if the Almighty wanted the child nothing should be done to interfere with His will.

When we asked the Director of the hospital whether the child would "make it" he replied that "all the facilities of the hospital are at the disposal of this infant and we hope that he will 'make it'."

Later we recalled this incident as we witnessed a

# DURING ITS EIGHT DAY STAY IN ISRAEL

(Pictures continued, page 18)



**Morris W. Berinstein,**  
Responds for UJA



**Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman,**  
Speaks at Opening Session



**Dr. Dov Joseph,**  
Treasurer, Jewish Agency



**Reuven Shiloah,**  
Advisor to the Foreign  
Minister



**General Dan Tolkowsky,**  
Commander, Israel Air Force



**Moshe Kol,**  
Head of Youth Aliyah

regularly scheduled parachute exercise. These were young men—as fine specimens of youth as one can find anywhere—making daring jumps in preparation for the role they might some day be called upon to play. From conversations with these paratroopers and with other Israeli soldiers, it was apparent to us that there is a deep sense of kinship between them and every man, woman and child in the country, and that, without the slightest hesitation, they would give up their lives so that others—including the child in the Tel Hashomer hospital—might live. Life is precious in Israel but not so precious that it would not be willingly surrendered in the defense of another life.

## The Country's Security Position

Outwardly, the Israel into which we came was, in contrast with a year ago, calm and relaxed. From Metulla to Eilat, Israel's borders were unusually quiet.

The armed Arab infiltrators known as *fedayeen*, who a year ago kept the land in turmoil with their hit-and-run murders and thefts, were gone. (For example, in the course of our survey we visited Kibbutz Saad, a settlement in sight of the Gaza strip. Typically, this kibbutz, once a daily target for hostile Egyptian actions, was enjoying the greatest sense of security it had known for years.)

The threat to Israel of a full-scale attack by Nasser,



**Mordecai Bentov,**  
Israel Minister  
of Development



**Charles Passman,**  
Retiring Director-General,  
Malben



**Edward M. M. Warburg,**  
Delivers the Closing Address

armed with vast Soviet equipment, was, for the moment at least, gone.

The blockade which kept Israel from developing its "window to the East," the southern port of Eilat, was also gone.

But as we were to learn quickly enough, new security worries and problems have replaced old ones.

The swift march of events in the Middle East has put a new military threat to Israel's existence on her northeastern border, in Syria. Here Soviet influence and might have taken over to a degree that would seem to surpass that which exists even in Egypt. Soviet technicians and modern arms are reported to have been poured into the country. Allied with this is the fact that Egypt's military machine reportedly has been replenished by the Soviets.

Both developments have placed continued pressure on Israel to keep its own security arrangements at maximum strength. Obviously, the cost of this is heavy, and funds which could be made available for the development of the country must be used for defense purposes.

The "cold war" has come to the Middle East with a vengeance. But in the final analysis Israel's leaders and people are aware that the ultimate issue of the young state's security has been taken out of their hands. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, a renowned observer of world political events, in an opening address to our group said:

"The Soviet Union is progressively taking a more hostile attitude towards Israel. It is not only backing the Arab position, but it goes so far as to throw out

hints of the possibility of the annihilation of Israel. This is something quite different from similar utterances by Arab leaders. Soviet Russia is not Egypt nor Syria."

#### **Israel's New Economic Crisis**

Yet, it was not the threat of another military crisis which Israel's leaders and Jewish Agency officials sought to put before us. Instead, what they were eager to make us most aware of was a new economic crisis which is not just a possibility but a grim reality.

In Paris, the dedicated Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Dov Joseph, pointed to the root-cause of the country's current economic problem—that Jews outside of Israel have not contributed sufficiently to the cost of receiving and absorbing the immigrants who have come to Israel since statehood.

In the 12 months from October, 1956 to October, 1957, more than 81,000 immigrants were brought to Israel. More than 40,000 of these came from East European countries, including Poland and Hungary. Some 13,000 were refugees from the Nasser dictatorship in Egypt. About 21,000 came from North Africa.

The Agency Treasurer declared, "The makeup of new immigrants in terms of country of origin changed radically in the last year. Previously, the bulk of our immigrants was from North Africa. In 1956, North African countries provided 80 per cent of our newcomers and Europe gave us less than 6 per cent . . . This year . . . Europe has given us more than 50 per cent of our immigrants."

Dr. Joseph went on to say that this new migration has meant a different type of immigrant. "We have received fewer manual laborers and more skilled work-

ers, artisans with technical skills, more white collar workers, more educated and trained persons, men of science and of the liberal professions, all bringing different needs to be met in order to settle and absorb them. This large wave of immigrants of a different type brought real advantages to Israel. But in its wake, rose new and graver problems in dealing with them."

Israel, Dr. Joseph pointed out, could not risk an uncontrolled "go where you will" settlement. It had to make strenuous efforts to see that immigrants were brought directly to areas where there were housing, jobs, and future opportunities for them. The Jewish Agency Treasurer pointed out that this absorption of as many as possible of the new immigrants in new development areas, entailing a vast building program, had cost many millions more than have been realized through the 1957 UJA Emergency Rescue Fund.

Another major absorption problem, as critical as providing housing and job possibilities, has been the need to provide the newcomers with a knowledge of Hebrew. Professional men have no chance of realizing their skills without knowing Hebrew. The Jewish Agency, therefore, pressed its program of teaching adults Hebrew in four or five months of intensive study in "Ulpan" schools. A year ago there were 3,900 students in 29 Ulpanim. In the last twelve months the Ulpanim were expanded to 61 and already have trained 13,000 adults to speak Hebrew well enough to carry on their jobs.

### The Unsettled Account

A point which Dr. Joseph raised in Paris was one that we were to hear repeated many times in Israel—the Jewish Agency's lack of means owing to the fact that it had never received all it required from year to year to do the job.

In his opening address to the Mission, Dr. Nahum Goldmann declared: "I do not hesitate to say that throughout these years Israel has been forced to over-reach itself. Year after year, it has been required to do more than it was able to do, as judged from a sound economic point of view. It has never had sufficient means to finance all it has done. While maintaining a reasonable standard of living, building up a strong army . . . Israel has at the same time had to absorb close to 1,000,000 penniless Jews into what was essentially a non-developed economy. Year after year, more immigrants were admitted, always over and above the financial resources both of the state and the Jewish Agency . . ."

Dr. Goldmann told us that in the last two years alone the Jewish Agency had to assume "new expenditures for housing, health and education, amounting to I.L. 77,000,000," a sum which may shortly be increased to I.L. 100,000,000 (\$55,000,000). These were expenditures required by renewed heavy immigration and were "over and above" the enlarged budgets which the Agency prepared to meet this immigration.

The principal exposition of Israel's difficult economic position came, however, from Israel's Finance Minister, Mr. Eshkol. With Dr. Goldmann he agreed that Jews throughout the world had given magnificently, but what they had provided was far from enough.

Mr. Eshkol reported to us that Jewish communities throughout the world had given or loaned Israel \$900,000,000 in the last nine years, through the United Jewish Appeal in the United States (about \$600,000,000), the Bond Drive and other sources. Yet, this stupendous sum had nonetheless fallen far short of the funds required to absorb fully the 900,000 immigrants Israel received in that period.

### Israel's Housing Crisis

Turning to housing, he said that 200,000 of Israel's immigrants still lack suitable housing and that at least 100,000 live in *ma'abaroth*—tin-hut towns. Thousands of these immigrants have lived four and five years in such communities.

As we travelled from place to place we saw several of these *ma'abaroth*, and we visited one. One can only err on the side of understatement in describing the squalor of the place we inspected. The inhabitants, Tripolitanian and North African Jews, complained bitterly that it had been necessary for them to live there for as long as seven years. It is a miracle that these people are left with a shred of morale and that in response to questions from our group whether they would rather return to their countries of origin, all replied "no."

In contrast to their complaints, they admitted that though their housing was woefully inadequate, their children had good schooling, they themselves had the benefit of the best medical services, that no one went hungry, and that the Government was vitally interested in their welfare and in improving their lot—none of which benefits would accrue to them in the countries from which they came.

Yet, the visit to this *ma'abara*, which we were informed was typical, left us with the conviction that we had to bring back to our fellow Jews in the United



States the story of the uncompleted task to which we must rededicate ourselves.

Again and again, Finance Minister Eshkol returned to the matter of Israel's difficult economic position. Speaking of the 81,000 immigrants who came to the country between October, 1956, and October, 1957, he declared, "The Jewish Agency has been forced to narrow down the scope of its activities owing to the lack of funds. Even with these fewer responsibilities, the Agency has been forced to call upon the Government to help in the program of building homes for immigrants and settling them on the land.

"The Government is limited in funds as well. As a result, both the Jewish Agency and the Government have been forced to compound debt upon debt, both locally and abroad.

"It is a fact that in the budget of the Jewish Agency we have not been able to invest sufficient funds to handle the urgent financial problems facing the recent resettled immigrants. Furthermore, we have not been able to budget one cent for establishing new immigrants."

Mr. Eshkol, who was once the Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, stressed his point in these salient words:

*"The beneficiary of your efforts, the Jewish Agency, simply has never received, during all the years, the funds required to meet the responsibility thrust upon it by history. I doubt whether we have ever received much more than half the target set by the UJA for Israel's needs. Consequently, we stand before you with an unsettled account. If we do not urgently turn to settling it then we are dooming a large section of the newcomers to a flickering and doubtful existence."*

### **The Response Not Adequate**

When he spoke of this same problem, Dr. Nahum Goldmann summarized the 1957 situation as follows:

"Both the State and the Agency have had to finance the immigration of 81,000 immigrants, five per cent of the total settled Jewish population in Israel. That is equivalent to having an annual immigration of 8,000,000 in the U.S. We had hoped when we engaged on this program, that the Jewish communities would respond to this new mass immigration, especially as it came from Europe, in an adequate way. But this was not the case, although there were substantial increases in the Agency's income everywhere, including the United States, the main source of its income. The

Jewish people gave more, but not enough. The result is that we are now in a very serious financial situation.

"This should be the basis for our joint deliberations and discussions. The day to day difficulties and *tsores* of nine years, both politically and economically are now beginning to crystallize and to build up into a major threatening crisis on both fronts. What Israel needs now is a period of consolidation, of catching up on some of the obligations incurred in nine years of enforced over-reaching. All this can be done only with the increased help of the Jewish communities the world over and primarily by the leading community of the world, the American Jewish community."

### **New Responsibilities for 1958**

Confronted with the burdens of fully absorbing those immigrants who have already arrived, the State of Israel must, at the same time, prepare to receive an additional influx of new immigrants in 1958.

No one can state with certainty what the new immigration load for 1958 will be. Priority will be given to Jews coming from what were referred to by Mr. Harman as "depressed" areas—that is, areas where the Jewish position is untenable and where the right to emigrate now existing in varying degrees may be precipitously cut off. Included in these areas are Poland, other countries in Eastern Europe, Egypt and North Africa.

At present, Israel grants highest immigration priority to those Jews who stand in greatest danger. Thus, we were informed that 50 per cent of the Jewish community (80,000 persons) of Iran and a large percentage of the Jewish population of Turkey (50,000 persons) would be helped to come to Israel only if facilities were available. At present they are not encouraged to come because their difficult position springs principally from an unfavorable economic situation, and it is urgent that more threatened Jewish communities be assisted to come to Israel first.

The best estimates are that Israel will be called upon to absorb about 70,000 Jews from the so-called "depressed" areas during 1958. The largest single group will come from Poland. In addition, as already indicated, about 10,000 will have to be resettled in other free lands.

In Israel alone the addition of the 70,000 new immigrants will mean the need to provide more housing, more schools, more social services, more retraining for a productive life, and the creation of more opportunities for employment.

## Summary and Conclusions

1. There is no doubt in our minds but that the taking in of more than 900,000 immigrants in Israel in the first decade of Israel's life as a nation is Israel's supreme achievement. In the words of Finance Minister Eshkol, "It is the greatest and speediest planned mass migration in Jewish history." We, the Jews of the United States, can take great pride in the indispensable part we played in this achievement.

2. While we, the Jews of the United States, have in the past decade given in a measure unsurpassed in the annals of any community of comparable size, what we have given has obviously not been adequate to fully absorb the immigrants who have entered Israel in that time. As a consequence, more than 100,000 still live in ugly and virtually uninhabitable *ma'abaroth* and another 100,000 are forced to live in inadequate housing. In addition, some 40,000 breadwinners with their families, about 200,000, are still not fully employed.

3. The people of Israel, surrounded by a constellation of nations determined to destroy their State and forced to spend a great deal on their defense and security, cannot be expected to assume a greater share of the burden involved in the absorption of the new immigrants.

4. Unless we, the Jews of America, redouble our efforts to reduce the deficit that the people of Israel and the Jewish Agency have incurred in the absorption of the immigrants, not only will tens of thousands of immigrants in Israel be forced to live under impossible conditions but future immigration to Israel will be imperilled.

5. We can avoid our responsibility to those who have entered Israel during the first decade of its life and to those who will be coming in 1958 and in future years only if we disagree with Israel's policy of keeping its doors open to Jews fleeing from tyranny, persecution and insecurity. Not one of us on the Mission would even think of taking issue with Israel's humanitarian policy towards Jews in search of haven. In fact, we believe that aside from the fact that Israel's additional population is the greatest source of its strength and a guarantee of its continuation, its open door policy on immigration is and will remain one of the principal reasons for its creation.

6. Unfortunately, the circumstances of history have been such that Israel has had to take in immigrants in advance of its immediate capacity to handle them. However, we agree with the view of Avraham Harman of the Jewish Agency Executive, that "if our problem is to win for Jews the right to move, then we are not in a position to deny them the right to come in the moment they get the right to move." This has particular relevance to the present and most welcome migration from Poland. We, in partnership with Israel must, at all costs, take full and immediate advantage of the historic opportunity to rescue the remnants of this once distinguished fortress of Jewish strength. *Tomorrow may be too late.*

7. We are convinced that to take care of future needs and to cover unmet needs of the past, a special fund along the lines of the Special Survival Fund of 1956 and the Emergency Rescue Fund of 1957 will have to be launched in 1958.

Having reached the foregoing conclusions, we assembled in Jerusalem on October 31, the last day of our Mission and, in a resolution which we unanimously adopted, we recommended **"that in 1958, the UJA be given the mandate to gather special funds which will insure the complete absorption of thousands of refugees who have come and are continuing to come to Israel and other free lands."**

We are confident that American Jewry will, with characteristic forthrightness and generosity, accept the foregoing recommendation at the Annual Meeting of the United Jewish Appeal on December 14-15, 1957.

But adopting a recommendation is not enough. To have any meaning, the recommendation must be fully implemented. Standing on the threshold of Israel's 10th Anniversary and UJA's 20th Anniversary, we, the Jews of America must measure up to the responsibilities which stem from being the largest and strongest Jewish community in the history of the Jewish people.

We will measure up to these responsibilities only if we, along with the people of Israel, in the words of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, "rededicate ourselves to the great tasks that lie ahead." The most tangible evidence of such rededication, the best proof that we want to contribute our full share to creating the "great civilization (in Israel) of which every Jew shall be proud" is: *that through the regular 1958 United Jewish Appeal and a special fund we give Israel the means to take care of the unmet needs and to confidently keep its doors open to our fellow Jews pressing onward towards Israel, in search of a life of freedom and human dignity.*

## MEMBERS OF THE 1957 UJA STUDY MISSION

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*New York, New York*

Harold H. Alpert  
*Phoenix, Arizona*

Jacob L. Barowsky  
*Holyoke, Massachusetts*

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Herbert Shainberg  
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Carl Weinkle  
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Morton B. Weiss  
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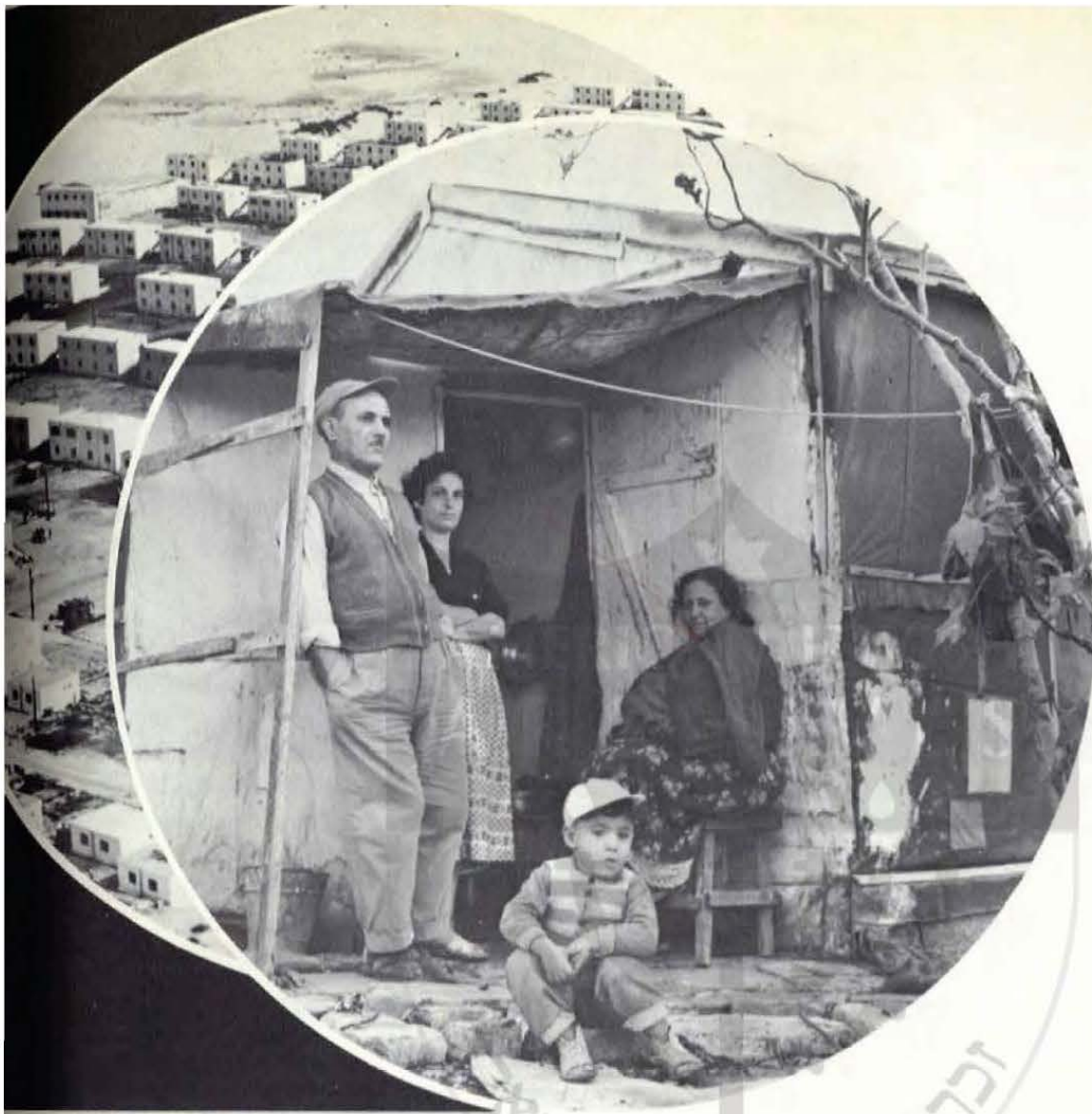
Sidney Zehman  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

**PRIME MINISTER DAVID BEN-GURION'S  
NINE-POINT PROGRAM  
FOR ISRAEL'S SECOND DECADE**

*In a message to the 1957 UJA Overseas Study Mission, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said Israel must attain the following goals in the next decade:*

- 1.** Welcome, absorb and integrate additional hundreds of thousands of our brethren from distant lands who yearn to come to Israel, to walk in dignity and raise their children as free Jews. It is my hope that these will include our brethren from Eastern Europe.
- 2.** Complete the integration of the multitudes who have already come.
- 3.** Complete our long range irrigation plan and the Jordan River Project, so that water from the abundant north can bring life to the arid south as a primary move in the conquest of the Negev desert.
- 4.** Cover the Negev with a rich network of agricultural settlements, cities, rail and road communications, pipelines, industrial plants and mineral workings, and a large port town at Eilat.
- 5.** Establish peaceful relations with our Arab neighbors.
- 6.** Prepare the country for the utilization of atomic energy for constructive development.
- 7.** Maintain and strengthen the spirit of pioneering of our people.
- 8.** Continue raising our standards of education, with twin accents on the teachings of our ancient Hebrew Prophets and the knowledge of modern science.
- 9.** Strengthen the bonds between Israel and World Jewry.

“These are the tasks,” the Prime Minister concluded. “They have been set by history. It has been given to us, the Jews of this generation, to fashion, if we will, our own destiny. Let us go forward, together, with courage and vision, to meet this great and exciting challenge.”



# the OTHER side of the coin

זכר אלה יעקב וישראל

## A REPORT TO AMERICAN JEWRY

SUBMITTED BY THE FIFTH ANNUAL STUDY MISSION  
OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL  
TO ISRAEL, EUROPE AND MOSLEM LANDS  
OCTOBER 29—NOVEMBER 9, 1958



NOTE: This report of the 1958 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission is furnished to you because it is felt that you should have the important information it contains. The material, however, is only for your personal use. You are asked therefore not to reprint the report in whole, or in part, or to give out parts of it for newspaper quotation.



HAIFA: Members of Fifth UJA Study Mission prepare to board S.S. "Artsa" to meet and talk with 433 new immigrants from Eastern Europe.

## The other side of the coin...

### A REPORT TO AMERICAN JEWRY

*The State of Israel was only in part brought into being or built by ideologists and theorists. It was not until these men became practical that real progress began...*

With these words on November 2, 1958, the *Jerusalem Post*, the leading English newspaper in the mid-East, began an editorial of warm welcome to the newly arrived 5th Annual Study Mission of the United Jewish Appeal.

In the Mission were some 100 representatives of 35 leading American Jewish communities. We had each come at our own expense to see and learn for ourselves what UJA aid means to Israel's people, particularly Israel's immigrants.

Calling the Mission members *practical ideolo-*

*gists*, the *Post* continued: *It is the decision to do something practical that is the sole principle uniting men and women... into the great organization of the United Jewish Appeal that has been Israel's unfailing partner through every crisis of construction...*

Accordingly we wish to give a brief, practical report on what we saw, heard and learned in our crowded, deeply moving, stay.

#### Facing UJA—"A Crisis of Construction"

We wish, particularly, to make clear why we came to the following conclusions and proposals:

**First**—while the United Jewish Appeal and American Jewry have truly been the "partner" of Israel's people—the editorial was too generous in saying that

we have been "unfailing." Too frequently we have fallen short of what we should have achieved in the face of great needs.

**Second**—that a great new "crisis of construction," exists at this very moment in Israel. It is one that should not be minimized by declarations that the word "emergency" has been overworked, or answered by cautious, minimal programs of help.

This latest crisis springs both from what needs to be done at once for the thousands of Jews from Eastern Europe who again are pouring into Israel, and what urgently remains to be done to bring hundreds of thousands of earlier immigrants the full distance on the road to new lives as free, self-reliant, citizens of Israel.

**Third**—that the need is very great for the 1959 campaigns of America's Jewish communities to be conducted so as to raise more money for, and yield greatly increased results to, the United Jewish Appeal and its beneficiaries.

It was our recommendation in Jerusalem, as indicated later in this report, that these funds can best be obtained through another Special Fund for UJA, and additionally, through a review by Welfare Funds of their "regular" campaign allocations to UJA, with a view to insuring a fair and just UJA allotment.

### Let Us Recapture the Vision

There is one more thing which we should like to do in this report. Briefly, it is to urge American Jews to recapture the insight into the meaning of our work, the sense of destiny and the vision which gripped us all in 1948 when the 650,000 Jews of Palestine declared to the world that a Jewish state again stood on Israel's ancient soil.

What this vision of Israel is today, was summed up for us on the evening of November 9, in Jerusalem, at our closing session, by the man who is the world's greatest living Jew.

Declared David Ben-Gurion, Israel's Prime Minister:

*I know you have seen something of Israel . . . But what I must tell you is that you haven't seen the most important things. Neither have we! They aren't here yet!*

Mr. Ben-Gurion continued:

*You haven't seen our large, southern desert settled and cultivated by hundreds of thousands of Jews. You haven't seen the great international port which is going to be in Eilat. You haven't seen the millions of trees that will be planted in the dunes and the seashore of the Mediterranean. You haven't seen the large factories which will serve our basic industries. You haven't seen the great shipping industry which we will develop . . .*

### The Heights and the Depths

In the time we were in Israel, we did, however, see and sense something of the young State's thrilling accomplishments in its first ten years.

In six days of active touring we ranged far and wide through Israel's north and south, its mountains and its plains.

We ranged, if anything, even further in its spiritual heights and depths. We stood on the emotional peaks of great human achievement and we plodded through the swamps of great human distress.

Thus, on our first day, Sunday, November 2, we stood in the halls of Israel's newest marvel, the Institute of Nuclear Science of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

One could probably draw a circle a thousand miles in diameter around the Nuclear building without finding an establishment similar to it in any of the encircled countries.

Yet a day later, we walked through Ma'abara David, one of Israel's 50 remaining *ma'abarot*—shanty towns that still house some 110,000 immigrants. Our visit was accompanied by a torrent of complaint from people who have had to live in these slums, almost as primitive as any in the mid-East, up to 6 and 7 years.

### Israel's Ten Years of Progress

Israel's people passionately want to get rid of these sickening collections of shacks and huts. Why they have been unable to do so, and what can be done to help meet this and other great unmet needs is the very heart of this report.

First, however, we believe it is important to recall some of Israel's actual achievements in immigrant



HERZLIA-ON-THE-SEA: Israel Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's opening address, November 2, calls on UJA Study Mission to join with Israel's people in meeting grave 1959 immigrant absorption problems.



NEW YORK: Mission leaders Edward M. M. Warburg, UJA Honorary Chairman, and Morris W. Berinstein, UJA General Chairman, confer prior to Mission's departure for JDC 13th Annual Country Director's Conference in Geneva.



HERZLIA-ON-THE-SEA: Congratulating Prime Minister Ben-Gurion on his address. (l-r) Herbert A. Friedman, UJA Executive Vice-Chairman; the Prime Minister; Dewey D. Stone, UJA National Chairman; Morris W. Berinstein, UJA General Chairman.



absorption. Wherever we turned the inspiring evidence of ten years of progress was there for us to read.

What has been done adds up to one of the greatest human stories of our time, an epic of rescue and regeneration of whole populations of oppressed, homeless and threatened Jews. What has not been done springs from several factors largely beyond the control of Israel's people or the Jewish Agency, the philanthropic body charged with speeding the absorption of Israel's newcomers.

**The main accomplishments may be listed as follows:**

- *The original Jewish population of 650,000 has taken in 920,000 newcomers.*
- *Nearly nine out of every ten of these arrivals has been housed in acceptable quarters.*
- *Some 482 farm villages have been established, and nearly 130,000 men, women and children settled on the land.*
- *These new immigrant farm villages have played a significant part in trebling farm output.*
- *More than 50,000 immigrant boys and girls have been educated to good citizenship under the Youth Aliyah program.*

In all these basic exploits, the Jewish Agency, main beneficiary of UJA funds, has played a leading part. Some 80 per cent of the monies which the Agency receives from free Jewish communities is derived from the United Jewish Appeal.

### **The Other Side of the Coin**

**But there is another side to every coin, no matter how brightly one side shines. And there is another side to this story of outstanding human achievement.**

**On every hand, we of the Mission also heard and saw the evidence of what has *not* been done to fully absorb Israel's ten year flood of immigrants.**

**Whole areas of need in behalf of these newcomers simply have been beyond the financial capacity of the Jewish Agency to meet, and the progress of Israel as a whole has suffered because they have not been met.**

**What is more, the inability to get rid of this great "backlog" of unmet immigrant needs threatens the country's ability to continue to receive thousands of fresh immi-**

**grants who are clamoring for admission from countries of oppression and despair.**

It became apparent to us that three main factors have operated against the Jewish Agency in its heroic efforts to integrate and absorb all of the 920,000 immigrants who have come to the young state.

**In barest outline, they are:**

- *The Agency's income was at no time sufficient to meet the full needs of immigrant absorption.*
- *Time and again sudden tides of new rescue immigration washed out orderly plans for integration.*
- *More than once the changing fortunes of the country's security prevented the Israel Government from contributing to the costs of immigrant absorption on the required scale.*

For these and similar reasons the Jewish Agency had to assume responsibilities beyond its strength.

### **The Unmet Needs in Brief**

Thus a heavy agenda of uncompleted work has accumulated in many vital spheres of immigrant absorption.

**These unmet needs may be listed as follows:**

**Housing:** Some 110,000 persons—22,000 immigrant families—still huddle in dreary *ma'abarot*, miserable collections of tin, wood and canvas huts. They feel underprivileged, as indeed they are. It is high time to help them become citizens with opportunities—and duties—like all the rest, by providing them with modest but suitable housing.

At the end of 1952, some 245,000 persons, nearly a quarter of a million immigrants, lived in more than 120 *ma'abarot* and other non-permanent quarters. Only 50 of these *ma'abarot* remain, but it is urgent that they be cleared.

**Agricultural Settlement:** The greatest unmet need financially, is represented by the 482 farm villages for immigrants set up in the past decade. These are made up of 32,000 farm units with a population of 130,000 persons; and they produce more than a third of Israel's overall agricultural production.



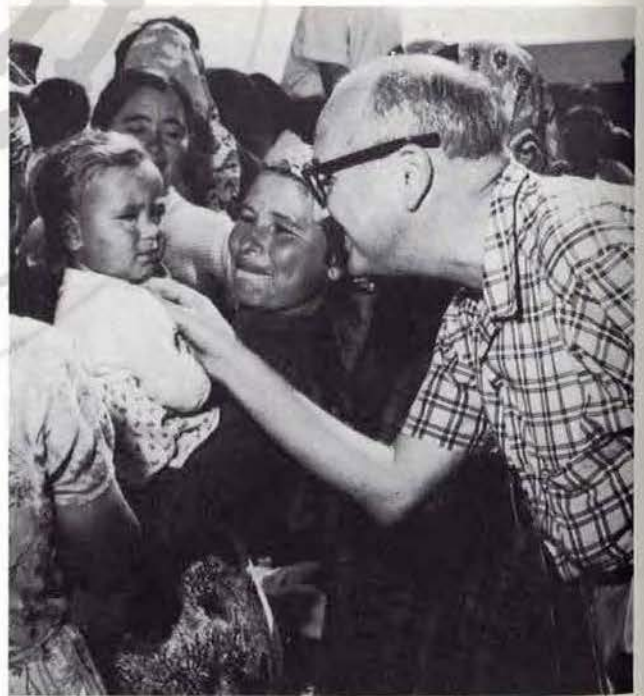
HAIFA: UJA National Chairman Joseph Holtzman talks with happy throng of new immigrants from Eastern Europe on board the S.S. "Artsa."



HAIFA: National Chairman Joseph Meyerhoff (l) confers with Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol.



MA'ABARA DAVID: Big Gifts Chairman Max M. Fisher chats with immigrant youngsters who must spend childhood in "shanty town."



LACHISH: Campaign Cabinet Chairman Fred Forman in favorite occupation; "oohs and ahs" over Israel's wonderful children.

Yet the fact is that hardly one of these farm villages today stands on its own feet.

For one thing, it takes time in almost every country before a new farm begins to pay its own way. But more important is the fact that the Jewish Agency has not been in a position to make the required investments for farm machinery, necessary farm buildings, approach roads, livestock and water on time. This amounts to \$16,500 per farm unit, ideally spread over four years. Illustrating this point, after ten years on the land some 700 settlers have not yet received their first cow and about 1,000 are still without their first draught animal.

At best, only 89 of the new farm villages have reached a stage calling for final consolidation within the next two years. The other 393 are not yet even candidates for consolidation. Because they cannot—without animals, machinery and sufficient water—develop their farms properly, the settlers in practically all these villages depend on outside jobs to obtain a meager existence. Many settlements also are deeply in debt.

**Water Resources:** Above all, water resources should be developed without delay. The Jordan-Negev Master Irrigation Scheme requires vigorous pushing. This is a project calling for an investment of at least \$100,000,000; and although the Israel Government shoulders the main burden, the Jewish Agency will also have to contribute its share.

**Social Absorption:** Many immigrants of earlier years have not yet struck roots. The Jewish Agency is therefore obliged to devote half of its current absorption budget to the care of persons who by now ought to be full-fledged Israel citizens.

Meanwhile, despite these expenditures, great needs in this area, too, go unanswered for lack of funds. Some examples:

Thousands of applicants for modest constructive loans are still kept waiting.

Hundreds of highly qualified professional men who have come from Eastern Europe have not yet been put to useful work.

Some 3,000 social hard-core cases—aged persons, widows, invalids and the mentally deficient—are in urgent need of rehabilitation or hospitalization.

**Youth Aliyah:** This year for the first time in its 25-year-old history, Youth Aliyah (youth immigration) has been forced to restrict the reception of new children. Of 600 to 800 applications every month, no more than 200 can be granted. This both robs immigrant children of their best chance to develop and seriously retards the parents' economic integration.

**Scholarship Program:** Again, for lack of means, it is impossible to expand the important Scholarship Fund for post-elementary education. This Fund, set up jointly by the Jewish Agency and the Government, did outstanding work in past years in providing opportunities of vocational training and higher learning for children of the Oriental communities and other underprivileged youth. More than 1,000 deserving scholarship applicants had to be turned down this year.

#### To Meet the Unmet Needs

To sum up the major needs, then, disregarding all new requirements of further immigration, the Jewish Agency must play a major role in providing for the following:

	\$ Million
Housing of 22,000 families still in <i>ma'abarot</i> (plus public buildings which go with it)	90
Integration of earlier immigrants, rehabilitation of social cases, Youth Aliyah backlog and educational services	35
Consolidation of 482 agricultural settlements	195
Master Irrigation Scheme	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>420</b>

#### Renewed Immigration—The New Challenge

But there never seems an end to the tasks facing the people of Israel or the Jewish Agency. With the Jewish state still in a period of intense growth, how could there be?

As the members of the 5th UJA Study Mission came into Israel, a whole new challenge presented itself in addition to the urgent business of meeting the unmet needs.



MAHANE ISRAEL: Cabinet Member Max Firestein talks with attendant at Malben center for aged, sick newcomers.



ADULLAM: Natl. Women's Div. Chrmn. Mrs. Jack A. Goodman plants a tree while Natl. Chrmn. Joseph Holtzman looks on.



HERZLIA: Cabinet Member Morris Senderowitz (center) and Mrs. Senderowitz (2d from l) hear Dr. Dov Joseph.



MA'ABARA JALIL: Cabinet Member James Permutt (2d from r), Mrs. Permutt, Fred Nichols are greeted by immigrant children.



REHOVOT: Cabinet Member Milton I. Taubman (r) talks with Amos De Shalit, Chief of the Nuclear Physics Institute, Weizmann Institute of Science.



LYDDA: New York UJA Chrmn. Charles Frost (l), Maxwell Dane arrive with Mission.

That challenge is the sudden, heavy upturn of immigration from Eastern Europe. It was brought home dramatically for all of us on the morning of November 4, when we boarded the SS "Artsa" in Haifa harbor.

There we met face to face—"heart to heart" would be a more exact statement—with 433 immigrants, men, women and children, at that very moment when they were about to step out of the past into new lives of freedom.

### **A Moment of Intense Emotion**

It was a moment of intense emotion, for immigrants and Mission members alike. Seven days before, a subcommittee of the Mission had seen many of these newcomers arriving from certain East European countries at the railway station in Vienna. Now there were warm reunions, shouts of recognition and welcome, as immigrants and UJA Mission members who had been in Vienna, rediscovered each other.

A miller from one East European country and a builder from Detroit pounded each other on the back for joy. An artist from another East European land and a young business man from Tulsa did the same.

A Jew who just eight days before had walked out of a country where for centuries Jews have known only hatred, summed up the moment in one quietly-uttered sentence: *With the Jews of Israel waiting for us and the Jews of America here, we are no longer alone.*

The greatly increased influx from Eastern Europe has developed almost overnight. Israel received a heavy immigration from one current source of emigration in 1950 and through the summer of 1951. Then, without warning the exit tap was turned off by the authorities of that country—with no reasons given.

### **How Many Will Come?**

Now in Fall, 1958, seven years later, the tap has been turned on—again with no reasons given. How many will come in? No one knows for certain. How long will emigration continue? Again no one knows.

All that the people of Israel, and the Jewish Agency really know is that no matter what the cost, no matter what problems are posed, every Jew who ap-

pears from Eastern Europe will be brought in and made welcome as quickly as possible.

In the month of October some 4,000 immigrants came into Israel. Compare this with the fact that only 8,000 came in during the entire first six months of 1958.

While no one can give an exact figure as to the numbers of newcomers who will arrive in the months ahead, plans for receiving these almost penniless *olim* cannot be based on a zero.

There is every reason to believe that immigration to Israel will continue at the October rate of approximately 4,000 per month. It was reported to us that in one Eastern European country alone, more than 60,000 Jews had registered requests for exit visas by October and that the number was mounting daily. In just one city, 4,300 registered for emigration in a single day.

It is obvious that the Jews of this, and other Eastern European countries, want to leave and are making their desire to emigrate known to the authorities. Whatever the pressures which caused the exit doors to open suddenly, the high registration makes it reasonable to believe that they will stay open for some time.

But with so many unknown factors, it would be pure guesswork to establish any specific immigration figure for the entire year of 1959. We could only assume that the number will be in the many tens of thousands.

### **Costs of the New Immigration**

The new influx has brought with it one certainty in the immigration picture: the Jewish Agency's financial position will become increasingly desperate.

Speaking to us in the Accadia Hotel at Herzliya-on-the-Sea, on Sunday, November 2, Dr. Dov Joseph, the able Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, put the Agency's financial problem to us in these blunt words:

*When we speak of expecting between 16,000 and 17,000 additional immigrants in the next five months, we are also saying we shall be short \$28,000,000 in our present budget!*

Dr. Joseph explained how this figure was arrived at, declaring:

*Each 1,000 additional immigrants costs, for travel and immigration expenses, IL 350,000 (\$192,500). For*

*preliminary expenses for these same 1,000 immigrants, by which I mean money to give them their first parcel of food, to transport them to their homes, to give them their first loans to get started in some way, to get them into an Ulpan (rapid language school) where they begin to learn Hebrew, to care for social service cases among them and the sick, and to begin to make some monthly payment to the very old that arrived, IL 450,000 (\$236,500) is needed . . . Housing for 1,000 immigrants is IL 2,000,000 (\$1,100,000). The total is roughly \$1,600,000 per 1,000 immigrants.*

*I cannot emphasize too strongly how we have suffered because people thought that you bring a Jew to Israel and look after him the first week and everything is all right, Dr. Joseph stated. That has been the great mistake for which we are paying today in Israel and in the Treasury of the Jewish Agency in particular!*

### **Israel's Citizens Will Do Their Part**

And now the Jewish Agency Treasurer revealed to us what Israel is prepared to do to make up the \$28,000,000 shortage.

It was planned, he made known, to ask the Jews of Israel, half of them themselves immigrants of the last few years, to voluntarily provide \$11,000,000 of the required \$28,000,000! The rest he hoped would come from the Jews of the free world, primarily American Jewry!

### **Israel's Financial Problems**

What Dr. Joseph had to say on Sunday was amplified and underscored for us in a heart-warming, moving address by Levi Eshkol, Israel's distinguished Finance Minister, on Tuesday evening, November 4, at the Zion Hotel in Haifa.

Mr. Eshkol, discarding his prepared speech, sought to bring home the disparity of responsibility which has grown up in recent years between the people of Israel and American Jews, in the continuing effort to rescue and absorb tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants from places of oppression and even danger.

He pointed out that the citizens of Israel, largely made up of new immigrants, had to assume responsibility through taxes for a current Budget for Services

amounting to IL 800,000,000 (\$440,000,000) and at the same time participate heavily in a Development Budget of IL 400,000,000 (\$220,000,000).

Israel's Finance Minister noted that many times the people of Israel, through the Government, had had to assume burdens of immigrant absorption which properly belonged to the Jews of the free world, through the Jewish Agency. He indicated that for the education of newcomers alone, the Government had expended more than \$100,000,000 that should have been provided by the Jewish Agency.

The Israel Finance Minister told us that these expenditures of the State *mean that all the children you saw coming in on the SS "Artsa" today, will be going to kindergarten or school in a week.*

Mr. Eshkol told us that an even heavier burden on the State was represented by an outlay of almost \$250,000,000 for immigrant housing and agricultural aid the Jewish Agency could not furnish.

Then he added, almost wistfully: *If you have had a chance to talk to the Israel man-in-the-street, you may have heard grumbling, such as taxpayers always do. Perhaps this grumbling was a little stronger. I am inclined to agree that maybe there is a little too much, and too heavy, taxation. But there is no way out. If children come in it is unbelievable that there should be no schools for them. If people come in, it is unbelievable that there should be no army to protect them.*

One point the Israel Finance Minister made, a point that was also underscored by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, is that the responsibility for Israel's security needs are those of the citizens of Israel alone. American Jews, he emphasized, were being asked only to fully share in the humanitarian responsibility of rescuing and re-establishing the immigrants who need Israel.

### **Many Moving Experiences**

None of us on the Mission will ever be able to forget a host of memorable sights and visits, which space does not permit us to elaborate upon here. Nor will we soon forget the many persons in official position and in everyday life alike who spoke to us feel-



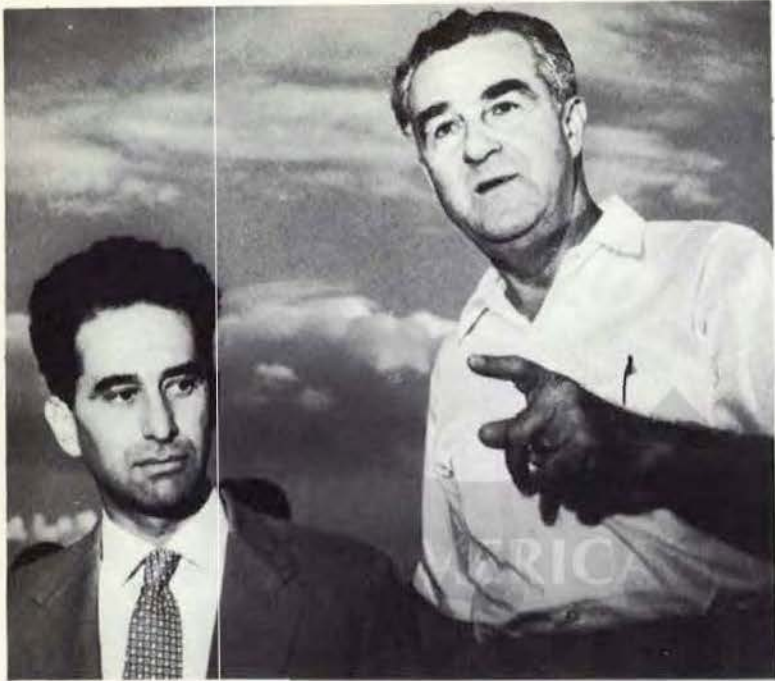
Friday, October 31: Moses A. Leavitt, (front center) Executive Vice-Chairman, JDC — a UJA constituent agency— addresses first meeting of the 1958 UJA Study Mission at JDC overseas headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



Saturday evening, November 1: Mission delegates arrived at Lydda, Israel, tired but still able to smile happily.



Sunday, November 2: Dr. Dov Joseph, Treasurer, Jewish Agency, addresses UJA Conference at Accadia Hotel, Herzlia.



Sunday Afternoon, November 2: UJA National Chairman and Weizmann Institute Chairman Dewey D. Stone introduces Nuclear Physics chief.



Sunday evening, November 2: Group gathers at Accadia Hotel. Minister David Ben-Gurion. Mrs. Ben-Gurion is seated at front.



Tuesday, November 4: We board S.S. "Artsa" in Haifa Bay to talk heart-to-heart with 433 immigrants from Eastern Europe.



Tuesday, November 4, noontime: We cross the Sea of Galilee to visit the outpost kibbutz of Ein Gev.





Prime  
Minister  
left.



Monday, November 3: We visit Mahane Israel, one of the JDC-operated Malben hospitals for chronically ill and dependent immigrants.



Monday, November 3: We were appalled by Ma'abara David, one of 50 such immigrant shanty towns.



Tuesday evening, November 4: At Zion Hotel we hear Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol outline Israel's accomplishments and financial problems.



Wednesday evening, November 5: A memorable evening spent at Ben Shemen, famous Youth Aliyah village.



Thursday, November 6: We visit Eytan, a settlement for North African immigrants established in the Lachish development area.



Friday, November 7: At Adullam each Mission member planted a tree.



Thursday, November 6: We stop in at a school in Ne'Ora, another Lachish village.



Friday, November 7: We visit the beautiful new campus of the Hebrew University outside Jerusalem.

ingly, and often profoundly, of the Israel which they were helping to build.

The course of our tour took us into the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Technion and the Hebrew University, Israel's three major and remarkable institutions of higher learning. It took us to such immigrant development areas as Lachish in the northern Negev, Adullam in the Judean hills, and the Galilee hills where a new, and important effort is being carried out to fill in Northern Israel's empty spaces. It took us as well into two of Israel's 50 *ma'abarot*.

We visited the famous outpost kibbutz of Ein Gev on the east shore of Lake Tiberias, under the constant sights of Syrian guns posted in the hills above. We spent a wonderful evening with the children of the famous Youth Aliyah home of Ben Shemen. On yet another memorable evening, we were entertained by a group of young men and women of *Nahal*, Israel's frontier-farmers. In their songs and skits are reflected much of the spirit, the vigor and the ready humor in the face of hardship, that is Israel today.

### **Israel's Army—School for Citizenship**

Our journey brought us in contact, too, with the impressive representatives of the Israel Defense Forces, a unique citizens' army, that has been forged out of Israel's diverse elements and which serves as a great school for post-army civilian life. These included Chief of Staff Major General Haim Laskov, Brigadier General Yitzhak Rabin, Officer Commanding, Northern Forces, and Colonel Ezer Weizmann, Commander, Israel Air Force.

We met farmers, seamen, social workers, teachers, scientists, and day laborers. We met remarkable women like Rifka Guber, the "Mother of Education in the Negev"—an old-time settler, who, with her husband, sold the farm they had painfully developed many years ago at Kfar Warburg. First they gave the proceeds to aid the new immigrant settlement work and then they themselves moved to Lachish, to help the newcomers from North Africa become farmers and citizens.

In addition to those speakers already mentioned, we heard from various members of the Israel Government and from key figures in the Jewish Agency.

Foreign Minister Golda Meir graciously opened her home of an evening in Jerusalem and spoke to us of Israel's political problems. She warned that the outward calm in the Near East bore no real relationship to Nasser's aim to still drive Israel into the sea.

Moshe Carmel, Minister for Transport, spoke to us in Haifa and outlined the proposed large-scale expansion of Israel's merchant fleet.

Of a Sunday evening on November 9, we were warmly received by President and Mrs. Itzhak Ben-Zvi at the Beit Hanassi, in Jerusalem. President Ben-Zvi asked us to bear in mind three points—that Israel must continue to be developed, that it must continue to receive immigrants, and that these things could only go forward with the understanding and full help of American Jewry.

### **"The Shadow of the Third Jew"**

On her own part, Mrs. Ben-Zvi made a moving address. She explained succinctly why the Jews of Israel feel compelled to keep the doors of the land open to all who would come: *When two Jews gather today, there is always the shadow of a missing third Jew—the Jew who was lost in the Hitler holocaust.*

Four members of the Jewish Agency Executive, in addition to Dr. Joseph, were good enough to give us of their time. Zalman Shazar, acting chairman of the Executive, Dr. S. Z. Shragai, head of Immigration, Yehuda Braginsky, head of Absorption, and Avraham Harman, head of Public Information, spoke at various sessions. Mr. Harman was in charge of a particularly illuminating get-together on immigration problems, held at the close of *Shabbat*, in Jerusalem, Saturday, November 8.

Meanwhile, many other persons assisted us. In Adullam, Dr. Raanan Weitz, the forceful head of Agency's Agricultural Settlement Department, spoke to us about the problems of settlement and development. Our thanks go as well to General Yacov Dori, President of the Technion, to Meyer Weisgal, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Weizmann Institute, and to Edward Gelber, member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, for their effective assistance to our Mission, and to many others who aided us in various ways in making our tour a success.

## UNMET NEED NO. 1—TO CLEAR THE MA'ABAROT



AMERICAN JEWISH



Running water, sanitation, electricity and gas, a sound roof between your head and the weather—ordinary and commonplace to you? They're distant dreams to more than 112,000 men, women and children who waste in the 50 Ma'abarot in Israel. UJA Study Mission members who visited two of the tin hut and wooden shanty towns were deeply shocked at what they saw. (Top left) Ma'abara dwellers harangue Mission members: "Why are we left here to rot?" (Top right) This "housewife" has existed in shack for six years. (Center left) Talking to inhabitants at Ma'abara Jalil. (Center right) Inside a ma'abara shack. (Bottom) Mission members in Ma'abara David.

## The JDC and Malben

Chronologically, our Mission did not begin in Israel. It began in Geneva, October 29, at the 13th Annual Country Directors' Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Both in Geneva, JDC's overseas headquarters, and Israel, where we visited the institutions of *Malben*, representing JDC in Israel, we were deeply impressed by the devoted, life-saving service which this second major beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal affords the hundreds of thousands it serves in 24 countries throughout the world.

Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC Chairman and UJA Honorary Chairman, welcomed us in Geneva. He noted the presence of representatives from many countries, and declared: *I greet not only those present, but I also greet Jews in need in countries and areas where JDC cannot work, where they are deprived both of the help we could bring them and a sense of contact with Jews in other parts of the world . . .*

Reporting on a just-completed global survey of refugee and welfare problems, Moses A. Leavitt, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman, warned that submerged Jewish communities in India and southeast Asia face assimilation and extinction unless the Jews of the world outside come to their rescue.

The Mission also heard a warning from Charles H. Jordan, JDC Director General for Overseas Operations, that year-by-year budgeting restricts the JDC to meeting immediate relief problems and curtails its efforts to help Jewish communities and individuals become self-sufficient. He asked that American Jews through UJA, seek to help JDC to budget for the long range planning.

## Fifteen Thousand Aided in Poland

In Poland, where JDC was invited last year by the government to resume its aid after a lapse of eight years, Samuel Haber, JDC Country Director, reported that 15,000 of the total Jewish population of 45,000 had received help from JDC since December, 1957. *Most pitiful was the plight of the more than 21,000 Jews newly repatriated to Poland after some ten years'*

*residence in Russia, he said. They returned, without means, to a country that was no longer home for them.*

*Through individual grants, child feeding programs, medical supply centers and JDC-supported ORT vocational schools, Mr. Haber continued, a start has been made toward restoring Polish Jewry to a new life of dignity and hope.*

Meanwhile a radical change in the policy and direction of JDC's work in Israel was reported by Louis Horwitz, JDC Director in the Jewish state. *JDC's network of services in Israel for aged, sick and handicapped immigrants, known as Malben, he said, is oriented today towards breaking down the walls between institutions and communities.*

*Wherever possible, Mr. Horwitz added, the people we aid are assisted to remain with their families, to become self-reliant as rapidly as possible, to enter into the life of their communities.* During the past year, he announced, JDC served 36,670 persons in Israel, expending 40 per cent of its total budget there.

## A Visit to Mahane Israel

In Israel, on the morning of November 3, the Mission visited one of *Malben's* remarkable institutions, *Mahane Israel*, a hospital for immigrants suffering from chronic diseases.

Here Dr. M. Vovsi, the Hospital Director, told us that the 140-bed hospital emphasized physical rehabilitation through physio-and-occupational therapy. Meanwhile, we saw patients learning weaving and sewing in two workshops established on the grounds of the hospital.

We learned also that *Mahane Israel* had established three residential units housing patients no longer in need of hospitalization, but too handicapped to be discharged. These residential patients are employed in the hospital workshops while remaining under hospital supervision.

Thus it was that we of the Mission, deeply stirred, and inspired by what we had seen and heard, held a meeting in Jerusalem, on the morning of November 9. Our purpose was to have a frank discussion among ourselves with a view to recommending what course of action American Jews should take in 1959.

## KIDS ARE KIDS—AND THESE ARE AMONG THE GREATEST!



"Our children are our future," says Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, and the future couldn't be in brighter hands. But many of these kids of Israel desperately need educational, vocational and other facilities. (Top left) Happy youngsters, in spite of their *ma'abara* home. (Top right) Lachish school children enjoy a break with UJA Study Mission visitors. (Center left) This cheerful newcomer from North Africa gives Mission member a big hello. (Center right) Well, who doesn't like to dress up and put on a show? (Bottom left) Outdoors for mid-morning break. (Bottom right) Friendly greetings for a Mission member.

### **Recommended—Another “Special Fund”**

Our discussion was direct and candid. From the beginning it centered around the desirability and need of American Jews to vastly increase the flow of funds for immigrant absorption and reception in 1959 through another Special Fund.

### **“A Somber Picture”—Joseph**

In our meeting we were conscious of the words of Dr. Dov Joseph, who, in his opening address to the Mission declared:

*The painful truth is that what we have been receiving in contributions for some years now from the United States and all free countries has been entirely inadequate to meet our vital needs. . . . To meet our current needs on a present-day basis, without additional borrowing, without debit repayments, we would require IL 225,000,000 (\$123,750,000) per year. . . . My friends, it is a somber picture for us to have to manage with a sum of IL 125,000,000 (\$68,750,000) when we need IL 225,000,000 (\$123,750,000)—just IL 100,000,000 (\$55,000,000) more.*

We were conscious, too, of a plea made to us by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol when he said to us in Haifa: *I think I am right in saying in your presence that you want a bigger Israel, a finer Israel, a stronger Israel. . . . But we in Israel, the Government, the Jewish Agency, and I as Finance Minister, must live day and night with the problems of receiving those who come to us. . . . We must begin to prepare now for the new immigration emergency. You are here on the eve of the rainy season . . . and soon the rains will begin. Before my eyes is the specter of ships, our own fleet, which will bring our own people here, men, women and children, and there will be no houses for them. And there will not even be tents and ma'abarot, for even these cost dollars and cents, and we have decided once and for all we will not build more ma'abarot. In the end they cost three times as much.*

### **“On a Rainy Night”—Eshkol**

The Israel Finance Minister continued: *Those who come will not believe that the Jewish people are unable to provide them with a roof. They will forget they left*

*a land where conditions are bad and will say “You called us. Where is your help?” Let this possibility haunt you . . . on a rainy night in New York or Detroit perhaps you will dream that there are thousands of newcomers arriving here and there are insufficient houses for them.*

The discussion which we held was in every way a credit to the ability of the American Jewish community to produce leaders of genuine insight and understanding.

Community leader after leader spoke ably and with great feeling of the need to secure wider understanding at home of what we had just seen and learned. They directed themselves earnestly to such problems as how to get individuals and communities to give more, and how to raise the great additional funds which all felt that UJA must have.

At the meeting's start there were those who expressed themselves as opposed to yet another Special Fund. But the need for such a fund became inescapable as the discussion wore on. To a man the session came to the conclusion that America's Jewish communities must be asked to do these two things:

First, to again undertake a Special Fund.

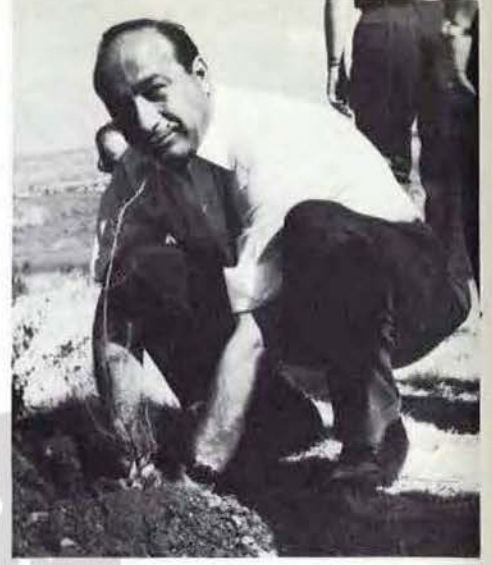
Second, to review their Welfare Fund allocations to the UJA for the purpose of insuring it a fair and just allotment.

Accordingly, we then unanimously adopted a resolution in which we declared ourselves as follows:

**WE HAVE THEREFORE CONCLUDED** it is a matter of urgent necessity that the 1959 campaigns of America's Jewish communities be so conducted as to raise more money, and to yield greatly increased results to the United Jewish Appeal, to the end that the work of its chief beneficiaries, the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, may go forward with full support.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we recommend to America's Jewish communities that these funds can be best obtained if they dedicate themselves to another Special Fund for the United Jewish Appeal. This fund, to be conducted in 1959, is to be “over and above” the sums raised in the regular 1959 Welfare Fund campaigns.

## WHY TREES WILL GROW IN ISRAEL



Perhaps the most profoundly stirring moment during our visit came as each of us, one by one, solemnly planted a sapling—a young and green tree—in the soil of Israel. We had toiled up a hill that rises to Jerusalem from the coast, and there, in breathtaking sight of the ancient hills of Galilee, the shimmering dry south, and the great blue Mediterranean, we turned the earth and in a symbolic way, made a pledge, a spiritual pledge to the land and its people.



**WE FURTHER RECOMMEND** to the Welfare Funds that they sit down with the leaders of the United Jewish Appeal to review the allocation to be made to UJA from their regular campaigns, so that a just and fair allotment of funds may be made to the Appeal.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that resolutions embodying the foregoing be worked out in detail and be adopted at the forthcoming Annual Conference of the United Jewish Appeal to be held in New York City, December 12, 13 and 14.

To this resolution we added one final note:

**AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that we shall each do our own full part towards raising increased sums towards the 1959 United Jewish Appeal, so that hundreds of thousands of our fellow Jews shall be aided to achieve new lives of dignity and freedom. To this end we are proud to announce that most of our members already have individually pledged that they will contribute substantially more in 1959 than they did in 1958.

We who make this report strongly urge that the American Jewish community look fully and squarely at the issue before it.

That issue is to recapture both the vision of our work and the level of giving to UJA which prevailed in the years that saw Israel born.

After ten years, a great, dramatic struggle continues. It is a mighty, heroic effort to re-establish millions of our fellow Jews in the full light and air of freedom.

The people of Israel are as hard at work fighting to achieve that victory as they were in 1948. They

have already won many major battles. But these victories have been interpreted as meaning that the total struggle itself is over. It is far from that.

On many fronts the people of Israel are even now seeking significant break-throughs. Israel's scientists are working day and night to find the way to turn salt water into sweet on a commercially feasible basis. If they do, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's dream of a hundred thousand Jewish farmers in the Negev is but a few steps away from reality.

On another front, Israel scientists are fighting to turn solar energy into cheap electric power. That, too, will mean a new day for Israel.

Break-throughs are being sought on many other fronts, in the field of human regeneration as well as the scientific.

But there is one front on which we alone can, and must, create a break-through. That front is the unwillingness to believe in our own power to meet the challenge that exists in 1959.

American Jews have shown many times that theirs is the wonderful, rare ability to understand and respond to great human needs.

We are certain that they have not lost this ability.

**In 1959 the paramount responsibility of American Jewish leadership is to put the story that has been indicated here before America's Jewish communities in all its richness, drama and significance.**

We are confident that, in return, American Jews will give the right and effective answer.



## WE TALKED WITH NEWCOMERS AND OLD SETTLERS



Travel through Israel and you detect a new spirit—freedom, dignity, security. Its people battle staggering loads that might overtax their capacity. The needy are the immigrants, the children, the homeless and helpless from overseas. But in Israel, the look of free, upright men is on them . . . in the faces of native-born sabras . . . in the faces of new immigrants. (Top left) A new immigrant from Eastern Europe whom we met on the S.S. "Artsa." (Top right) Israel women army officers. (Center left and right) UJA Mission members greet immigrants aboard the "Artsa." (Bottom left) Another mission member chats with an army officer. (Bottom right) Saying "hello" to settler from North Africa.

## RESOLUTION OF THE 5TH ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

**W**E, THE MEMBERS of the 5th Annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, numbering some 100 representatives of leading communities throughout the United States, having spent eight days in ascertaining the current problems of Israel for which UJA funds are utilized, including immigration aid, housing, immigrant absorption and social welfare, wish to declare as follows:

**We have been** greatly moved and inspired by the courage, devotion and vision of Israel's people and leaders in the great work of reclaiming and building the land.

**We have seen** that the people of Israel, even while they continue to bolster their security at great cost to themselves, are undertaking to add to their already extensive support of the work of receiving newcomers and of speeding the absorption of immigrants of previous years by imposing an emergency levy on all citizens of Israel. They are doing this to make possible the new "now or never" immigration from Eastern Europe.

**Meanwhile, we ourselves have seen** shiploads of these new immigrants entering Israel. There is every prospect that tens of thousands of additional such immigrants will seek entry in the months ahead.

**We have also determined** that, because the funds received from the United Jewish Appeal over the years were far from sufficient to meet the total needs of immigrant absorption, a huge backlog of "unmet needs" now exists in the work of re-establishing and integrating Israel's newcomers amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.

**We have seen for ourselves** that foremost among these is the need to tear down Israel's shocking *ma'abarot* — immigrant shanty towns — and to provide adequate housing for the 110,000 immigrants who, we are dismayed to learn, still live in these disgraceful collections of huts and shacks, some even after six and seven years.

**We have seen also** that a determined effort must be made to overcome other great unmet needs, which have arisen from insufficiency of funds. Among them is the need to help Israel's 480 new agricultural settlements win economic self-sufficiency.

**We believe that** yet another need is to provide increased assistance, education and training for tens of thousands of immigrant children and youths. We were deeply impressed and moved to see the care, attention and love which the people of Israel expend in the upbringing of these children, but we were also greatly saddened to learn how much more needs to be done, but cannot be carried out for lack of funds.

**WE HAVE THEREFORE CONCLUDED** that it is a matter of urgent necessity that the 1959 campaigns of America's Jewish communities be so conducted as to raise more money, and to yield greatly increased results to the United Jewish Appeal, to the end that the work of its chief beneficiaries, the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, may go forward with full support.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we recommend to America's Jewish communities that these funds can be best obtained if they dedicate themselves to another Special Fund for the United Jewish Appeal. This fund, to be conducted in 1959, is to be "over and above" the sums raised in the regular 1959 Welfare Fund campaigns.

**WE FURTHER RECOMMEND** to the Welfare Funds that they sit down with the leaders of the United Jewish Appeal to review the allocation to be made to UJA from their regular campaigns, so that a just and fair allotment of funds may be made to the Appeal.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that resolutions embodying the foregoing be worked out in detail and be adopted at the forthcoming Annual Conference of the United Jewish Appeal to be held in New York City.

**AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that we shall each do our own full part towards raising increased sums towards the 1959 United Jewish Appeal, so that hundreds of thousands of our fellow Jews shall be aided to achieve new lives of dignity and freedom. To this end we are proud to announce that most of our members already have individually pledged that they will contribute substantially more in 1959 than they did in 1958.

*Resolutions Committee*

Jerusalem, November 9, 1958

Max M. Fisher, *Chairman*  
*Detroit*

Max Firestein,  
*Los Angeles*

Joseph Kaplan,  
*Boston*

Joseph Meyerhoff,  
*Baltimore*

F. Gordon Borowsky,  
*Philadelphia*

Edward Ginsberg,  
*Cleveland*

David Lowenthal,  
*Pittsburgh*

Milton Taubman,  
*Tulsa*

## MEMBERS OF THE 1958 UJA STUDY MISSION

Julius Atkins  
*Milwaukee, Wisc.*

Morris W. Berinstein  
*New York, N. Y.*

Henry C. Bernstein  
*New York, N. Y.*

David S. Bond  
*Boston, Mass.*

F. Gordon Borowsky  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

Mrs. S. Alexander Brailove  
*Elizabeth, N. J.*

Ralph M. Brandwene  
*Kingston, Pa.*

Mrs. Abner Bregman  
*Portchester, N. Y.*

Sidney S. Cohen  
*Boston, Mass.*

Leon J. Coslov  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Maxwell Dane  
*New York, N. Y.*

Dr. William Sawyer Eisenstadt  
*Minneapolis, Minn.*

Myer Feinstein  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

Max Firestein  
*Hollywood, Calif.*

Max M. Fisher  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Edward Fleischman  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Frank I. Fonaroff  
*Louisville, Ky.*

Fred Forman  
*Rochester, N. Y.*

Herbert A. Friedman  
*New York, N. Y.*

Charles Frost  
*New York, N. Y.*

Charles H. Gershenson  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Samuel F. Gingold  
*New Haven, Conn.*

Edward Ginsberg  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

Emil Glucker  
*New York, N. Y.*

Manuel D. Goldman  
*Rochester, N. Y.*

Nat C. Goldman  
*West Palm Beach, Fla.*

Samuel A. Goldsmith  
*Chicago, Ill.*

Mrs. Jack A. Goodman  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

Robert I. Hiller  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Joseph Holtzman  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Arthur Howard  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Joseph Kaplan  
*Boston, Mass.*

Abe Lapides  
*Pontiac, Mich.*

Moses A. Leavitt  
*New York, N. Y.*

Joseph N. Leff  
*New York, N. Y.*

Jack O. Lefton  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Edward Levine  
*New York, N. Y.*

Harry Levine  
*Leominster, Mass.*

Aaron P. Levinson  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Isadore Lichtenstein  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

David Lowenthal  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Joseph Meyerhoff  
*Baltimore, Md.*

George Michelson  
*Boston, Mass.*

Fred W. Nichols  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

Ben E. Nickoll  
*Milwaukee, Wisc.*

Joseph Ottenstein  
*Washington, D.C.*

James L. Permutt  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

David Richman  
*Los Angeles, Calif.*

A. O. Samuels  
*Bridgeport, Conn.*

Morris Senderowitz, Jr.  
*Allentown, Pa.*

Richard Sloan  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Samuel Smith  
*Allentown, Pa.*

Boris Smolar  
*New York, N. Y.*

Isidore Sobeloff  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Dewey D. Stone  
*Brockton, Mass.*

A. Alfred Taubman  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Milton I. Taubman  
*Tulsa, Okla.*

Sanford Treguboff  
*San Francisco, Calif.*

Edward M. M. Warburg  
*New York, N. Y.*

Arthur Wasserman  
*Boston, Mass.*

Benjamin Weinstein  
*Bridgeport, Conn.*

William Yanoff  
*New York, N. Y.*

Paul Zuckerman  
*Detroit, Mich.*



# The Year of Opportunity

A REPORT TO AMERICAN JEWRY

Submitted by

The Sixth United Jewish Appeal Study Mission

To Israel and Europe. November 7-19, 1959

NOTE: This report of the 1959 United Jewish Appeal Study Mission is furnished to you because it is felt that you should have the important information it contains. The material, however, is only for your personal use. You are asked therefore not to reprint the report in whole, or in part, or to give out parts of it for newspaper quotation.





JERUSALEM: Members of 6th United Jewish Appeal Study Mission visit Kibbutz Ramat Rachel overlooking Israel-Jordan border.

# The Year of Opportunity

## A REPORT TO AMERICAN JEWRY

**T**HIS IS A REPORT to American Jewry by the members of an overseas study mission of the United Jewish Appeal. It is an account of what 115 men and women, representing some 40 leading American Jewish communities, saw and learned in a 10-day stay in Israel and a 2-day stay in Vienna, the gateway city of Jewish emigration from Eastern Europe.

It is on one hand an account of the problems which face the people of Israel, particularly the new immigrants, and American Jewry, their partners, in the great humanitarian effort of rescue and restoration in which both have been engaged since the Hitler years. At the same time, it is an attempt to convey a sense of appreciation for the magnificent and inspiring work which is now going forward in the vital, 11-year-old State of Israel.

Our Mission, the 6th such UJA Study Mission to visit Israel since 1954, enjoyed a unique experience. It was not long after we arrived at Lod Airport, on the evening of Monday, November 9, that we began to become aware of the fact that we were the first of all UJA Study Missions to visit an Israel free from a sense of imminent and explosive crisis.

### A Different Year

The evening after our arrival the distinguished Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, pointed out this interesting and exciting difference at the opening Mission dinner, Tuesday, November 10, at the Accadia Hotel in Herzlia. Dr. Goldmann declared:

"Whenever you came to this country before, either as a Mission, or individually, you came to an Israel



JERUSALEM: Israel Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, tells Mission at dinner, November 15, that Israel's destiny is to be a land of progress and a haven to Jews who will yet come from many lands that bar their exit.



JERUSALEM: Mission leaders Morris W. Berinstein, UJA General Chairman (r.), and Herbert A. Friedman, Executive Vice-Chairman, with Israel President Itzhak Ben-Zvi at reception at Beit Hanassi.



NATANYA: We join in observance of 10th Anniversary of Malben (JDC in Israel) and hear Edward M. M. Warburg (center), UJA Honorary Chairman; Dr. Giora Josephthal (l.), and Malben's Louis Horwitz.

deep in some form of crisis. The moment you left the plane you were met with a request for action in the face of some specific emergency. At one time you would find Israel's people in the midst of a security crisis. At another time it might be a political crisis. But most often it was an immigration emergency . . . This time, as I believe you will see, the UJA Mission arrives at a moment when there is no outward crisis, no excitement, no specific emergency . . ."

### No Outward Crisis

Dr. Goldmann's words, on the surface at least, proved to be correct. In our ten-day stay we saw a new, or at least different, Israel than our predecessor Missions.

For one thing, the country had just completed a hard-fought, but orderly, democratic election. In it, 80 per cent of Israel's eligible voters chose their democratic leaders for the next four years. The results of the election were interpreted by many observers as reflecting a new sense of stability and security in the country. This sense of stability seemed to extend to many other areas of Israel's everyday life.

As we traveled from one end of the land to the other, we saw vast construction and development in progress. Great new housing projects were springing up in Israel's cities, development towns and rural areas. A great new pipeline was being laid from the Jordan River in Israel's north to the Negev, in the country's south. New factories were springing up in communities throughout the country, and full store windows displayed the results of Israel's new productivity. Meanwhile, newly constructed terraces could be seen on the road from the coastal plain to Jerusalem, carved from the ancient Judean hills.

Above all, the Israel we saw is one that has become amazingly green in eleven short years. The brown desert retreats day by day in Israel's northern Negev before the occupying green forces of Israel's new immigrant agriculturalists. In the Galilee, almost every hillside shows signs of reforestation or agricultural development, and gleams with new houses and villages. And everywhere Israel is marked not only by the bustle, but by the roaring sounds of construction. Today's poet might write, "For lo, the winter of Israel's crisis is over, and the voice of the jackhammer is heard throughout the land."

### A Normal Immigration

But this 6th UJA Study Mission did miss one great experience. The high spot of each previous UJA Mission, emotionally and psychologically, was always a visit aboard an immigrant ship on its arrival in Haifa Bay, and the chance to talk with newcomers just as they were about to achieve their long-held dream of freedom. We did not have this privilege, because though immigrant ships and planes still come to Israel, immigration for the moment is not proceeding at the frantic pace of previous years. Many exit gates in countries with large Jewish population are temporarily half shut or closed altogether.

Our chance to talk with immigrants came instead in Vienna. Here, one rainy noontime, we went from our hotel to an immigrant hostel to greet a group of 125 Jews, who had just emerged from behind the Iron Curtain. It is not possible to describe the joy and gladness felt by Americans and these Jews from Eastern Europe alike at that wonderful moment of meeting. There were tears in the eyes of both groups.

### No Time to Relax Aid

Since the Mission saw an Israel which is so outwardly flourishing, so orderly, and so marked by productive activity, it may be asked "Hasn't the moment come for American Jews to relax their efforts, which were designed to help receive and absorb nearly one million refugees to Israel since 1948?"

**To this we, the members of the Mission, can only reply with a most emphatic "No!" Only a shallow and unobservant traveler would be satisfied to accept Israel as a complete success and consider the job of immigrant rescue and settlement, which American Jews have supported ably and with great understanding, as finished.**

It was Dr. Goldmann himself who said that a great contradiction exists between the Israel which one sees today and the situation of the Jewish State as it really is. At the opening dinner of the Mission, he declared:

"The seemingly normal facade of life in Israel can become a great danger to Israel itself and to Jewish communities throughout the world . . . Yes, you will find a prosperous country and people working and making a living . . . and you should report this. But you of the Mission should also learn to look through the facade at the deeper issues facing Israel, *of which none is yet solved.*"





HAIFA: National Chairman Albert A. Levin (r.), introduces Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, who spoke.



REHOVOTH: National Chairman Dewey D. Stone, chats with Cabinet Member Phil Zinman (r.) and Mel Dubin (l.).



JERUSALEM: Special Gifts Chairman Max M. Fisher and Mrs. Fisher talk with Israel Foreign Minister Golda Meir.



NATANYA: National Cash Chairman Melvin Dubinsky visits with aged resident of Frieda Schiff Warburg Home.



ALONEI YITZHAK: Campaign Cabinet Chairman Fred Forman and F. Gordon Borowsky lunch with Youth Aliya youngster.



LOD AIRPORT: Moses A. Leavitt, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman and UJA Secretary, arrives in Israel from Vienna sessions.

AMERICAN JEWISH



## Israel's Unsolved Problems

Dr. Goldmann listed three of these great, unsolved issues:

"First," he said, "Israel is not yet secure, nor has it won peace . . . Israel will yet have to pass through many difficult moments if it is to have anything like peace with the Arab world — a peace which is as far away today as at any time in the last ten or eleven years.

"Next," Dr. Goldmann said, "Israel is not yet economically secure. It still must make tremendous efforts to become economically independent and self-supporting." The Jewish Agency Chairman warned in this connection that the moment is not too far away (1963) "when one of our great sources of income will dry up and stop, namely that of German reparations."

A third great problem which faces Israel's people is one of particular interest to American Jews and to the United Jewish Appeal. Dr. Goldmann stated: "It is the problem of absorbing and welding all the diverse populations which have come into Israel from nearly 70 countries in the last eleven years into one truly cohesive society." Dr. Goldmann quoted one of Israel's leaders, who in the recent election had put the problem in these words: "We have built a State, and now we have to begin to build a nation."

## The Two Israels

What Dr. Goldmann indicated to us, and what became apparent to the Mission in our ten day stay, is that there are, in a sense, two Israels.

One is the bright, shining Israel of progress and accomplishment. It is an Israel that demonstrates vividly that the many long years of devoted pioneering and work by Israel's people, and the vast help contributed by free Jews throughout the world, are having their effect. The simple fact is that the 650,000 people who made up the Jewish population of Israel on May 14, 1948 have, with our help, successfully integrated an almost equal number of newcomers from lands of oppression and despair. At the same time they have gone forward in the face of enormous odds to build and restore both the land and lives.

**But there is a second Israel — a gray and static Israel, an Israel which exists for at least one out of every three of the nearly one million newcomers who have entered the Jewish State.**

## One Third Unabsorbed

It is an Israel in which every third immigrant finds himself ill-housed, or without special social or welfare care when he requires it, or without a full opportunity to earn his own living, and with only a bleak future for his children, who grow up with a restricted chance to secure a higher education and the opportunity to better themselves.

Even as we went around the country, an alert and free Hebrew press both welcomed us, and warned us about this gray Israel.

One publication declared: "Israel is not yet a country of plenty and of a high standard of living, for the majority of its inhabitants are still largely new immigrants. Nearly 400,000 of its 2,000,000 population have not yet been absorbed in the process of agricultural and industrial expansion. Nearly 60,000 are still living in temporary conditions in *ma'abarot*, and many more in development villages and towns labor under low economic and cultural standards."

Wrote another publication: "This Mission, the sixth of its kind, comes not only to see what has been done with the money collected in former years, but also to study the problems and the tasks facing the State of Israel in the near future. Although these are not days of large-scale immigration, the tasks facing us, whether in the sphere of absorption or of building up the life of a normal and independent people, still are enormous."

## The Bright and the Gray

In ten intensive days of travel, in which the Mission journeyed from Kiryat Shmona, a new development town close to Israel's northernmost borders, to Moshav Lachish, a frontier outpost in Israel's south-land, we were continuously brought face-to-face with the two Israels — the bright Israel, of progress and achievement, and the gray Israel, marked by poverty and despair.

Many leaders, too — representatives of the Jewish Agency and topmost Government officials — cautioned us to observe these two Israels, or pointed out their co-existence by contrasting sharp, meaningful facts.

Dr. Dov Joseph, the able Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, Israel's philanthropic body for meeting the needs of Israel's newcomers and the principal beneficiary of UJA funds, declared:



**NATANYA:** Cabinet Member F. Gordon Borowsky examines work done by student in ORT Vocational Training School.



**LACHISH:** Cabinet Member Leonard Ratner shows product of spinning mill he and fellow Clevelanders have established.



**LOD AIRPORT:** Cabinet Member Nehemiah Cohen is greeted by friends on his arrival in Israel to join Mission.



**ALONEI YITZHAK:** Cabinet Member David Lowenthal (r.) and Samuel A. Baskin meet with Youth Aliya youngsters.



**HERZLIA:** Cabinet Member James L. Permutt (center) and Ivor Boiarsky toast successful conclusion of 10-day Mission.



**BEIT SHEMESH:** Cabinet Member Joseph Talamo meets up with some of Israel's younger generation.

"The achievement of our people during the eleven years since Statehood is something that has brought us great recognition and praise from . . . all the enlightened free countries of the world. But I want to talk to you about what hasn't been done yet."

### 60,000 Still in Ma'abarot

Dr. Joseph went on to give the following examples: "We have provided housing for some 200,000 families since the State was established — no mean achievement. But there are still some 15,500 families, representing some 60,000 souls, in the *ma'abarot*, Israel's immigrant shanty towns, who cannot feel content with the knowledge that the other 200,000 families *do* have roofs over their heads, while insofar as they are concerned, nothing has been done for them."

Dr. Joseph added, "You will visit our beautiful agricultural settlements. I hope that some of the farmers will tell you of their complaints against the Jewish Agency, because I tell you, speaking as the Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, they have good grounds to complain . . . Here they are struggling year after year and are still not independent, not because they are not willing to work, not because the land isn't right to be cultivated . . . but because we have not given them the implements we should have given them, or the cow, or the chickens, or the water, or the working capital . . ."

### Farmers Unable to Support Themselves

Dr. Joseph stated, "We have taken 32,000 farmers since the State was established and put them on the land, and most, through no fault of theirs, are still unable to support themselves. This is a matter which must be put right." The Jewish Agency Treasurer noted other lacks, particularly in the area of immigrant absorption and special aid and education for youth.

He summed up the Jewish Agency's plight by saying that since 1948 it had received contributions and loans amounting to \$1,040 million, but that it had spent \$1,181 million. "In other words," he declared, "we spent more than we got." Dr. Joseph indicated that to have absorbed the nearly one million immigrants who came into the country since 1948 — and to have really absorbed three out of every three immigrants who arrived — the Jewish Agency should have had an additional \$400 million.

### Lachish—a Human Laboratory

The following day, Wednesday, November 11, we visited the Lachish area, Israel's remarkable agricultural center where in five years thousands of arid acres have been put under cultivation and 25 new settlements established almost entirely by immigrants.

With each passing year, Lachish has become increasingly famous among the underdeveloped nations of the world, including the new nations of Africa and Asia, as a laboratory demonstration of what can be done to make farmers out of untrained immigrants and to weld into a homogeneous group the newcomers Israel has received from 70 different countries.

At the Samuel Rubin Cultural Center in Kiryat Gat, the blossoming industrial capital of the Lachish area, Dr. Raanan Weitz, the Jewish Agency's vigorous Director of Agricultural Settlement, introduced us to heads of five villages of Lachish, all immigrants from different countries.

The first was Eliahu, from Cochin, India; next was Yehuda, from Persia; third was Gershon, from Yemen; fourth was Peretz, from Morocco; and the fifth was Avraham, from Egypt.

Dr. Weitz told us that the 485 agricultural settlements established for new immigrants by the Jewish Agency since Statehood had increased the total farm population to 285,000 persons. The new farmers had, with the established farmers, opened up whole regions, like Lachish in the south, and the Upper Galilee in the north, and had made the country practically self-sufficient in the production of foodstuffs. The new immigrant farmers are producing 50 per cent of Israel's industrial crops as well.

Dr. Weitz indicated that Israel, almost alone among the nations of the world, has reversed the current drift of people away from the farms. But, Dr. Weitz pointed out, this bright picture of Israel's agricultural achievement has its gray side as well. Thousands of the new farmers are now drifting away from the farms because they cannot fully support themselves. The Jewish Agency, he indicated, estimates that it requires \$15,500, spent in four installments over a period of several years, to bring a new farm unit to the point where it can maintain itself and a typical farm family. This is not a large investment, even in countries which do not have to fight the harsh agricultural conditions which face Israel's farmers.

## Needed: \$200,000,000 Additional

But, Dr. Weitz continued, Israel owes its new farmers \$200 million worth of assistance in the form of farm equipment, tools, livestock, roads, electricity, and other costly items which will make it possible for them truly to take care of themselves. As it is, thousands of them must resort now to labor on public works in order to make ends meet, thereby neglecting their farms.

In Otzem, one of the Lachish villages, the Rabbi who had come with his flock from Morocco threw light on the new immigrant farmers' plight. He told us that most of the 100 or so farmers of Otzem have only five dunams of land under irrigation, but that in order to truly support themselves, they should have ten dunams. Otzem waits for the additional water, and as it waits, its farmers grow more and more discouraged.

And in Haifa, on a Wednesday night (November 18) Levi Eshkol, Israel's distinguished Finance Minister, shed still more light on the plight of the immigrant farmer. He indicated that the average farmer makes only \$20 a week from his labor, while the industrial worker makes more than twice as much. Thus a disparity has been set up which tends to draw newcomers who have already learned their trade of farming away from the farms.

We saw numerous other impressive examples of the bright Israel and the gray. On Friday, November 13, we were the guests of the Mayor of Beit Shemesh, a new immigrant town of 8,000, in the Judean hills before Jerusalem. This day brought into sharp focus the problem of Israel's housing. Beit Shemesh began as a *ma'abara*, an immigrant slum town, in 1950. Today its 8,000 inhabitants, most of them employed in local industry or in public works, live in well-built, attractive multiple family dwellings that have been set on Beit Shemesh's hillsides.

A few hours later, we saw the other side of the picture as we stood in a miserable, fetid slum in the Holy City — Jerusalem — in the Musrara quarter of that city. Here, hundreds of newcomer families live huddled in the most dilapidated and distressing homes — ancient Arab buildings, which were pressed into use as housing for the great waves of immigration that came in 1948. A key fact of the gray Israel is that 60,000 newcomers have been living for several years, in the *ma'abarot* — immigrant shanty towns — and

that many thousands more live in Israel's slums. All these people live under conditions which no democratic government — with an eye to the welfare of its people and to the future of its society — can tolerate.

The bright Israel, and the gray were also made apparent to us on Wednesday, November 11. In the morning, we heard Yehuda Braginsky, Member of the Jewish Agency Executive and head of its Absorption Department, speak on problems of immigrant absorption. Mr. Braginsky made it strikingly clear that Israel's people have paid a very high price for their resolve to receive every Jewish refugee in need of haven. Immigrants other countries normally reject as physically and mentally unfit, or over-age, have been accepted without question, because Israel's people recognize that they can not penalize would-be immigrants who suffered under Hitler or other oppressors.

The Jewish Agency Absorption head told us that better than one out of every ten immigrants since 1948 — or 132,000 out of 950,000 — has been a social case, requiring specialized health care and rehabilitative aid.

## An Evening With Malben

That evening, in a never-to-be-forgotten visit to the Frieda Schiff Warburg Home for the Aged at Natanya, the Mission saw something of the magnificent work which has been done in the way of receiving and restoring many such social cases. The home is one of 30 remarkable institutions maintained by *Malben*, the Israel arm of the Joint Distribution Committee, which conducts a special welfare program for aged, handicapped and chronically ill immigrants without resources of their own. Its work is made possible by UJA funds.

At the home we saw men and women, most of them in their 70's, obviously enjoying, at last, peace and security. A chorus of disabled persons gave us a rousing selection of Yiddish and Hebrew songs. A lively group of actors, none of them younger than 65, put on a spirited production of Sholom Aleichem's "Nur a Doctor." And a group of aged Yemenite Jews performed their native dances in a manner that might have aroused the envy of Inbal itself.

Edward M. M. Warburg of New York, UJA Honorary Chairman and Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, told us something of the joy and



Thursday, November 5: Edward M. M. Warburg (center) UJA Honorary Chairman, and Chairman, Joint Distribution Committee—a UJA constituent agency—addresses JDC Country Directors' Conference in Geneva which preceded Mission. Also shown, Moses A. Leavitt (r.), JDC Executive Vice-Chairman, and Charles Jordan, JDC Director-General (l.).



Tuesday evening, November 10: Jewish Agency Chairman Dr. Nahum Goldman tells opening Mission dinner at Accadia Hotel, Herzlia, Israel's fundamental problems are unsolved. To Dr. Goldman's left—Dr. Dov Joseph, Jewish Agency Treasurer, who also spoke.



Wednesday, November 11: S. Z. Shragai (center) and Y. Braginsky (r.) of Jewish Agency brief Mission.



Wednesday evening, November 11: Chorus of Malben residents welcomes us to organization's gala 10th Anniversary.



Thursday, November 12: Otzem school girl presents bouquet to Mrs. Morris W. Berinstein, wife of UJA head.



Thursday, November 12: Dr. Raanan Weitz, Jewish Agency Agricultural head, explains about Lachish development.



Thursda  
honors



Thursday, November 12: We visit Migdal Ashkelon, where 108-inch irrigation pipes are manufactured.



Thursday, November 12: The Chief Rabbi of Otzem, a Lachish farming village, thanks UJA for its help.



November 12: Plaque on Lachish cultural center temporary Special Fund Chairman Samuel Rubin.



Friday, November 13: Abba Eban, President, Weizmann Institute, addresses Mission in Institute's Wix Hall.





Saturday evening, November 14: Mission is received at home of Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel Foreign Minister.



Monday, November 16: We visit Ma'abara Or Yehuda, one of Israel's 50 immigrant shanty towns.

AMERICAN JEWISH



Monday, November 16: Moshe Kol, Director of Youth Aliya, speaks to Mission at Alonei Yitzhak village.



Monday, November 16: Mission pays visit to Wadi Salib, Haifa's immigrant slum area — scene of disturbances.



Wednesday, November 18: Amos Deinard seconds resolution calling for retention of "principle of extra giving" in 1960.



Thursday, November 19: Mission takes last look at "Unmet Immigrant Needs," in visit to Ma'abara Beth Lid.

happiness *Malben* has brought directly or indirectly to some 150,000 persons in ten years. Dr. Giora Josephthal, former Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, lauded *Malben* for the manner in which, in the hectic, initial days of Israel's birth, it had brought both warm understanding and expert knowledge to the solution of one of Israel's most pressing problems.

Louis Horwitz, Director General of *Malben*, told how the organization has contributed to the progress of Israel's people, by helping to solve many great social and health problems. But he indicated that *Malben* should be serving thousands of additional persons, whose needs cannot be met yet, particularly immigrants of the pre-1948 period, and that it must always be ready to meet the requirements of future thousands.

In its first decade *Malben* has established and equipped hospitals, out-patient clinics, old age homes and other institutions, with a total of 6,580 beds. More than half of these are homes for aged immigrants without means, or family that can assist them. *Malben* also has made an important contribution to Israel's health by leading a coordinated assault upon the tuberculosis menace, which assumed alarming proportions as a result of large-scale, unselected immigration from Moslem lands about six years ago. Now, it is exploring with the Jewish Agency how it can help to service social cases still in the *ma'abarot*, and thus help speed the dismantling of these wretched places.

#### Four Areas of Unmet Needs

From our travels throughout Israel, and from what we heard from Israel's leaders and people alike, it became clear that there are four major items that form a backlog of unmet immigrant needs. These must be cleared up before the nearly one million immigrants who have come into the country can be considered absorbed. They are:

**1) Housing:** All of Israel's newcomers have roofs over their heads, but by Western standards much of this housing must be considered primitive. At the end of 1952, some 245,000 people lived in non-permanent quarters, generally immigrant slum towns known as "*ma'abarot*." With great effort, this number has since been reduced by three-fourths. *But the sad fact is some 50 ma'abarot still remain, with a population of 15,500 families — or 60,000 people.* Many immigrants have been living in *ma'abarot* for as long as six or seven

years. The very existence of these places represents an ugly blot on the Israel social scene. The Jewish Agency has estimated that it, for its part, will have to spend some \$30 million in voluntary funds to liquidate these shanty towns.

No estimate exists as yet as to what it will cost to replace the inadequate housing represented by such slums as Wadi Salib in Haifa, which we visited, or the Musrara quarter in Jerusalem and similar areas in Tel Aviv and other towns and cities.

**2) Agricultural Settlement:** From a financial as well as a practical point of view, agricultural settlement has always formed the backbone of Jewish Agency work. In some years, when immigration was relatively limited, it accounted for well over half of the total expenditure incurred by the Agency. The Jewish Agency has today under its care a total of 485 settlements, including three established in the current year. They comprise some 32,000 farm units, with a population of more than 130,000 souls. The area cultivated by these settlements is 325,000 acres which represent 40 per cent of the total land in Jewish agriculture. This includes 145,000 dunams under irrigation.

The value of the farm output in these young settlements has jumped nearly 50 per cent since 1957 to \$135,000,000 in 1958, and now accounts for more than one-third of the overall agricultural production in Israel. This proportion promises to grow as extensive citrus and other plantations begin to bear.

*But the fact is that even if no further villages were to be founded, it would still take seven or eight years to complete fully the consolidation of the settlements already started.* As previously mentioned, according to calculations of the Agricultural Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency, it will take an amount close to \$200 million to provide the irrigation, livestock, farm buildings, fruit and citrus plantations and other items which are required to bring these new farm units up to full productivity. *At this moment, only 85 of the 485 settlements have reached a point where they are almost self-sufficient — and these are settlements that were started as early as 1948.*

**3) Water:** Closely allied with the problem of stepping up agricultural production is that of finding new sources of water, particularly for Israel's arid south. The Lachish area and adjacent settlement in the

# GREATEST UNMET IMMIGRANT NEED—TO CLEAR THE MA'ABAROT



60,000 of Israel's immigrants still live in miserable shacks and shanties which make up the *ma'abarot*—immigrant slum towns. Many thousands more of newcomers live in abandoned Arab housing, now slums, with 8 to 10 persons to a room. Immigrants in Wadi Salib slum in Haifa (upper left), and in such *ma'abarot* as Or Yehuda, and Beth Lid (other photos), begged Mission members to help find funds to provide decent housing.

southern territory of Israel have absorbed the full flow of the 60-mile, 60-inch Yarkon-Negev pipeline, which was completed some five years ago. A second branch of the Yarkon-Negev pipeline is sorely needed but has not yet been finished. *There can be no real additional growth of agriculture in Lachish and other areas until there is more water.*

Meanwhile, the Israel Water Authorities have already begun an even more ambitious pipeline — one which will draw water from the upper Jordan itself and bring it down almost across the length of Israel to the country's south. The first phase of this project alone, utilizing the 108 inch, pre-stressed concrete pipes which the Mission saw being manufactured at Migdal Ashkelon, will cost \$100 million and will not be completed before another five years. The new pipeline is not for the northern Negev alone, the areas between Beersheba and Jerusalem.

Below Beersheba lies a truly empty and arid land, a rock desert punctuated by potentially fertile areas which could be made viable with water. Already experimental settlements are going up in such areas, and research is being carried out to determine what can and must be done to conquer and make full use of these vast stretches of empty space — space which Israel must utilize as it grows to a population of 3 million or 4 million.

**4) Absorption and Education:** Thousands of the 132,000 social cases who have come to Israel since 1948 still rely in part on the Jewish Agency for assistance. These are aged and handicapped persons not eligible for other aid, including *Malben*. *What is worse is that there are at least some 6,000 who require such assistance who have not yet received it.* Meanwhile, the Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency engages in a wide variety of activities designed to speed the immigration of newcomers to Israel or extend care to those whose absorption must at best be a long and laborious process. Much work is carried out among immigrant youth, particularly those of parents from Oriental lands. In the recent election, even the most depressed sections of the Oriental Jewish community told political candidates that what they wanted was not housing, or jobs, but adequate educational opportunities for their children.

The Jewish Agency Absorption Department helps maintain 20 youth centers, up and down the country.

At the same time it contributes to the program of Youth Aliya, which will be serving some 10,500 children this year. Owing to lack of funds, only 3,000 new children will be accepted in Youth Aliya institutions as compared with 6,000 who were accepted in 1956-1957. Every month between 800 and 900 applications are received, of which not more than 200 can be accepted. The Jewish Agency cooperates in a program which provides some 5,000 scholarships of high school and college level to deserving children, particularly of the Oriental group, who would otherwise be unable to go to school. Yet this is not enough, and the extension of secondary education to a great majority of the new immigrants (secondary education is not free in Israel) presents one of the country's greatest problems.

## The Israel To Be

In our ten days' visit we saw the two Israels of today, the bright and the gray.

But there is a third Israel — one to which every leader, planner and every citizen in the country is dedicated. This is the Israel of tomorrow. In part, it is an Israel envisioned for us by Dr. Raanan Weitz of the Jewish Agency Agricultural Settlement Department, when he described how the country's arid south could become the hothouse of snowbound northern Europe — a great center for the production of off-season fruits and vegetables.

This third Israel is one which will come into being after it has solved many outstanding international problems through "a dynamic assault," and through the use of science as proposed by Abba S. Eban, the distinguished President of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's remarkable Foreign Minister, also spoke of this third Israel when she said the country must ever be alert to receive large masses of immigrants who still will come from countries whose gates now seem closed.

On a quiet Sunday afternoon in Jerusalem, at Beit Hanassi, Israel's scholar President, Itzhak Ben-Zvi, also spoke to us of the Israel that will be. He indicated that great as the achievements of the present Israel are, in contrast to the past, these will seem puny to developments to come.

## IMMIGRANT YOUTH NEEDS A CHANCE TO LEARN



One of the most important of the unmet needs of Israel's immigrants is in the area of vocational and educational opportunities for the children of newcomers. UJA funds help make training possible for many thousands of such youngsters, through ORT—the organization for vocational training, which receives funds from JDC and through the establishment of Jewish Agency youth centers where youngsters learn useful arts. (See photos above.) But thousands of additional youngsters need such help.

But it remained for Israel's great Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, to put before us the vision of a third Israel in its challenging, inspiring totality.

On Sunday evening, November 15, in Jerusalem, at the dinner which he graciously extended to our Mission, Mr. Ben-Gurion *first sketched in for us how science and human ingenuity would yet solve many of Israel's physical lacks.*

In this connection he declared: "We are determined to turn our desert into a cultivable, habitable place, by the help of the spirit of pioneering and science . . . We intend to bring down the water from the Jordan to the Negev. We intend, with the help of our scientists, to utilize unlimited solar energy. We intend to de-salt sea water to make possible irrigation. We intend to discover the hidden treasures in the Negev, in the seas, and to make them usable . . ."

*Second, Mr. Ben-Gurion drew for us a picture of Israel's continuing role as a haven.* He said, "I have not the slightest doubt that in the next few years — I cannot say whether in two or three or four or a little more — you will see a mass immigration of many hundreds of thousands coming to this country. Although we know the great difficulty of absorbing them in this comparatively poor country, we will do it, and Israel will be the salvation of several million Jews in European, African and Asian countries . . ."

*Third on his agenda for the future, Mr. Ben-Gurion spoke of immigrant absorption.* He declared: "We have to integrate all the Jews who have come to us from 70 different countries, from all continents, and from all the societies. They not only came from different countries, they came to us from different centuries, from the 20th, 19th, even the 10th century, speaking different languages, having different habits and customs."

*Now, as a fourth objective, Israel's Prime Minister listed the securing of peace in the Middle East for Israel's people.* He pointed out that there are other people in the Middle East besides the Arabs, and that Israel is winning their friendship along with the friendship of the peoples of Asia and Africa. "We are certain," he declared, "we will break through the wall of hatred, boycott, blockade, but it will not be an easy thing."

*Mr. Ben-Gurion then summarized his picture of the future Israel with these remarkable words: "We*

*are determined to turn this small country into a great center of wisdom, learning and science. History did not give the Jewish people . . . large numbers, great wealth or large armies. But we have inherited something which is more important . . . moral and intellectual supremacy. We are a people who have bequeathed to more than half of humanity great cultural treasures, which have lifted up many peoples in Europe and Asia and Africa . . . I have deep faith that we will succeed in turning this small country into one of the greatest centers in the world of wisdom, of learning, research and science."*

Mr. Ben-Gurion concluded: "When you will come over here after a few years, you will not recognize this country any more. It will be changed, just as it has changed until now, and is entirely different from what it was five and ten years ago."

### The Principle of Extra Giving

Thus it was, with all these mingled impressions of the two sides of present-day Israel — the bright and the gray — and of the Israel to come, that we, the Mission members, gathered in a conference room in the Zion Hotel in Haifa on Monday evening, November 16. Our purpose was to discuss what course of action we should recommend to American Jewry in the conduct of the 1960 United Jewish Appeal campaign.

Community leader after community leader arose and spoke from his heart. It soon became clear that we were not engaged in a preliminary discussion, but that we were putting into final shape our thoughts, our feelings, our greatest hopes for the country and the people we had seen.

Almost to a man, in one of the most eloquent sessions ever enjoyed by any Mission, the members of the Sixth UJA Study Mission agreed that while no outward crisis existed in Israel, there existed a great body of pressing internal problems of immigrant absorption which could not, and should not, be overlooked; additionally, we felt that 1960 represented a year of opportunity in which we could turn our attention to these problems.

We agreed, too, that in large measure the responsibility for these problems lies with American Jewry,

**EVERYBODY—BUT EVERYBODY—WANTED TO HAVE**



AMERICAN JEWISH



**HIS PICTURE TAKEN WITH ISRAEL'S WONDERFUL KIDS**



**AMERICAN JEWISH**



**BUT WE ALSO TALKED WITH THE AGED, AS WELL**





because as magnificently as we have given, we have never found it possible to measure up to the full requirements for immigrant absorption presented to us year after year in the budgets of our principal beneficiaries, the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee.

It was our practically unanimous opinion, shared even by men who had at one time been dubious about doing so, that the principle of extra giving to the work in Israel, over and above the regular campaign must be retained in the 1960 United Jewish Appeal.

It was our conviction, too, that no man who calls himself an American Jewish communal leader has the moral right to declare that Israel's people, at this still formative time, must be denied the extra \$15 million to \$20 million for immigrant aid which has accrued each year out of the special campaigns.

Accordingly, our conclusions were summed up in a suitable Resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the Mission, on the evening of Wednesday, November 18. In it we declared:

**"It is our solemn conclusion that this objective can be accomplished only by retaining in some suitable form the principle which has marked UJA fund-raising since 1956, namely that of**

**extra giving to the work in Israel, 'over and above' the regular campaign.**

**"Therefore, be it resolved that we recommend to the forthcoming Annual National Conference of the United Jewish Appeal, to be held in New York City, December 11-13, that its delegates, representing America's Jewish communities, find the ways and means to incorporate this principle of extra giving into the 1960 United Jewish Appeal Campaign.**

**"And finally, be it resolved that each of us, determined that the people of Israel shall continue on their present road of progress and accomplishment, pledges to do his own full part towards giving and raising greatly increased sums for the 1960 United Jewish Appeal."**

We therefore recommend to the Annual National Conference of the United Jewish Appeal and to American Jews everywhere that the spirit of this Resolution be incorporated into the 1960 campaign.

We call on them too to implement the resolution with fullest vigor and effect, to the end that in this year of lessened immigration full use shall be made of the opportunity to go ahead with the work which we have nobly launched, so that vast numbers of lives shall be saved and rebuilt.



Mission members worked long and hard, visiting some forty settlements, institutions and communities.

## RESOLUTION OF THE 6TH ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

**W**E THE MEMBERS of the 6th Annual Study Mission of the United Jewish Appeal, numbering some 115 representatives of leading American Jewish communities throughout the United States,

**Having just completed** an intensive inquiry into the manner and spirit in which large funds raised through the United Jewish Appeal are used to save and rebuild Jewish lives in Israel, Europe and Moslem lands,

**And having just been received** with warmest cooperation and fellowship by the people of Israel, including its highest leaders,

**Wish to bring the following conclusions** to the urgent attention and understanding of all our fellow Jews in America:

**Today, more than 11 years after statehood**, Israel displays many outward signs of success, and represents an achievement of greatest pride to its people and the Jews of the free world, alike.

**Nevertheless, we who make up this mission**, feel it is our solemn responsibility to report that there is another side to Israel's inspiring record of achievement. Failure to look squarely at this darker side would be an act of greatest disservice to the lifebuilding cause to which we are devoted.

**Israel is at peace** — but Israel's people must maintain this peace by remaining eternally vigilant, at tremendous cost to themselves.

**Immigration to Israel** continues — but Israel's people must remain ever ready to receive the vast numbers who will surely come in the future.

**The essential needs** of great numbers of immigrants have been met — but some 350,000 of these newcomers are still lacking the basic requirements of decent and civilized living.

**American Jews should know**, in this connection, that one out of every three of Israel's immigrants is yet unabsorbed, because he lacks decent housing, or the means to earn his own living, or the chance to secure needed special welfare help, education and training.

Thus some 60,000 immigrants of recent years still live in *ma'abarot* — teeming, unsanitary shanty towns.

Thousands more live in equally miserable slums, places of corruption and despair.

Meanwhile the great majority of Israel's 32,000 new immigrant farmers—who with their families represent 130,000 persons—cannot yet earn their living from their farms for lack of water, tools, livestock and other help.

This great backlog of unmet immigrant needs is not of Israel's making. It springs directly from the fact that over the years full campaign goals have not been met, making it impossible for the Jewish Agency to carry out its absorption programs.

**WE HAVE CONCLUDED, THEREFORE**, that it is a matter of urgent necessity that in the 1960 campaign, America's Jewish Community should once more dedicate itself to obtaining the greatest possible funds for humanitarian work in Israel.

**IT IS OUR SOLEMN CONCLUSION** that this objective can be accomplished only by retaining in some suitable form the principle which has marked UJA fund-raising since 1956 namely, that *of extra giving to the work in Israel*, "over and above" the regular campaign.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we recommend to the forthcoming Annual National Conference of the United Jewish Appeal, to be held in New York City, December 11-13, that its delegates, representing America's Jewish communities, find the ways and means to incorporate this principle of extra giving into the 1960 United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

**AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that each of us, determined that the people of Israel shall continue on their present road of progress and accomplishment, pledges to do his own full part towards giving and raising greatly increased sums for the 1960 United Jewish Appeal.

*Resolutions Committee*

Haifa, November 18, 1959

*Chairman*

Albert A. Levin  
*Cleveland*

F. Gordon Borowsky  
*Philadelphia*

Melvin Dubinsky  
*St. Louis*

Fred Forman  
*Rochester*

David Lowenthal  
*Pittsburgh*

## MEMBERS OF THE 1959 UJA STUDY MISSION

Morris Abrams  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

Bernard Barnett  
*Louisville, Ky.*

Samuel A. Baskind  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Morris W. Berinstein  
*New York, N. Y.*

Henry C. Bernstein  
*New York, N. Y.*

Julius Bisno  
*Los Angeles, Calif.*

Morton Blum  
*Kingston, Pa.*

Ivor Boiarsky  
*Charleston, W. Va.*

F. Gordon Borowsky  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

I. J. Caplan  
*New York, N. Y.*

Nehemiah M. Cohen  
*Landover, Md.*

William Cohen  
*Denver, Colo.*

Amos Deinard  
*Minneapolis, Minn.*

Mel Dubin  
*Richmond Hill, N. Y.*

Melvin Dubinsky  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

Walter L. Field  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Max M. Fisher  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Fred Forman  
*Rochester, N. Y.*

Herbert A. Friedman  
*New York, N. Y.*

Charles H. Gershenson  
*Detroit, Mich.*

Edward Ginsberg  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

Charles Goldberg  
*Denver, Colo.*

Nat C. Goldman  
*West Palm Beach, Fla.*

Max Goldweber  
*Jamaica, N. Y.*

Leo Gross  
*Minneapolis, Minn.*

Robert Hirsch  
*Bridgeport, Conn.*

Paul Kapelow  
*New Orleans, La.*

Irving Kramer  
*New York, N. Y.*

Julius L. Kuffler  
*Long Island City, N. Y.*

Leonard Laser  
*Chicago, Ill.*

Moses A. Leavitt  
*New York, N. Y.*

Samuel Lebowitz  
*York, Pa.*

Albert A. Levin  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

David Lowenthal  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Nathan W. Math  
*Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Harvey Meyerhoff  
*Baltimore, Md.*

Morris Miller  
*Denver, Colo.*

Irving Moss  
*Beverly Hills, Calif.*

Joseph Ottenstein  
*Washington, D. C.*

Thomas Ottenstein  
*Washington, D. C.*

Dr. Eugene V. Parsonnet  
*Newark, N. J.*

James L. Permutt  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

Theodore R. Racoosin  
*New York, N. Y.*

Leonard Ratner  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

Donald Robinson  
*Monroeville, Pa.*

Herbert Schear  
*Dayton, Ohio*

Nathan H. Schine  
*Bridgeport, Conn.*

Theodore H. Silbert  
*New York, N. Y.*

Leonard M. Sperry  
*West Los Angeles, Calif.*

Alex Stanton  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

Jacob Starr  
*New York, N. Y.*

Dewey D. Stone  
*Brockton, Mass.*

Stephen Stone  
*Malden, Mass.*

Joseph Talamo  
*Worcester, Mass.*

Paul H. Tannenbaum  
*Jamaica, N. Y.*

Julius Waldman  
*Atlantic City, N. J.*

Edward M. M. Warburg  
*New York, N. Y.*

Bernard Weinberg  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

Sidney Zehman  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

Philip Zinman  
*Camden, N. J.*

1961



*THE YEAR OF DECISION*  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES



A REPORT TO AMERICAN JEWRY

Submitted by

The Seventh United Jewish Appeal Study Mission

To Israel and Europe. October 14-31, 1960



Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, addressing Mission at King David Hotel predicts 1 million emigrants will come to Israel during her second decade. "Then we shall be put to the greatest test in our history!"

# THE YEAR OF DECISION

## FOREWORD

Because of the crucial significance that Israel's tremendous immigrant absorption problem holds for both the million immigrants who have entered the state during the past twelve years, as well as for future immigrants to Israel, the major portion of this Report of the 7th Annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission is devoted to a detailed analysis of the status of the 485 farm settlements founded since the establishment of Israel under the care of the Jewish Agency.

As we learned during our stay in Israel, these settlements are the hub around which the total immigrant absorption program revolves. Their establishment was one of the first imperatives of a nation that had emerged from its war of independence economically prostrate, nominally still at war with the Arab world, and yet determined to hold its doors open to the thousands of Jewish immigrants for whom Israel represented their last best hope for redemption.

These settlements served three purposes: They provided food for a hungry nation; homes and livelihoods for the immigrants (the alternative would have been to let them degenerate in the ma'abarot, while

importing food to feed them); and, equally important, many of these settlements were to occupy empty territory and thus contribute to the country's security. All three purposes have been accomplished.

Today their consolidation is of paramount importance to Israel, both for social and economic reasons. Chronic shortages of funds have resulted in a slow-down in supplying these farms with such essential matériel as tractors, farm equipment and machinery, livestock, water installation and proper housing, and have prevented these farms from making their fullest contribution both to the country's economy and to the solution of Israel's number 1 problem: The total absorption of her immigrants. Nevertheless, the farm settlements have absorbed over 130,000 men, women and children — 15 percent of the newcomers to Israel — and is the best, the swiftest, and the most efficient way of absorbing the thousands of new arrivals into the country.

What steps must be taken to remedy the situation of these unconsolidated farm settlements and what the Jewish Agency needs from us form the gist of this Report.



**VANGUARD OF STUDY MISSION DEBARK AT LOD AIRPORT**



## Objectives of Mission

For the seventh consecutive year, an official United Jewish Appeal Study Mission completed its fact-finding assignment in Israel.

All encompassing as the phrases "Study Mission" and "Fact Finding Mission" are, they still fail to be adequately descriptive of the objectives that caused 125 Jewish leaders to journey from the United States to Europe and to traverse every part of the state of Israel.

Of facts there was no end. The number of men, women and children who were entering Israel — day by day, month by month? This was obvious to every traveller because, in addition to transports that arrived regularly in Haifa from various Mediterranean ports, small groups of immigrants fill every empty seat of the Israel airline planes before they depart after refueling stops in Rome and Athens, as well as the unoccupied cabins of Zim line steamers that call at ports in Italy and Greece. In fact, the plane which brought many of the Mission members from Rome to Israel also carried a full quota of immigrant families.

Or the miles of pipeline that would bring the waters of the Jordan to the thirsty sands of the Negev? Everywhere the Mission members went they saw sections of concrete pipe, huge enough to drive a jeep through, lying alongside newly dug trenches, ready to be "seamed" into place.

Or the success of the new development areas? While the Mission was in Israel, Lachish — Israel's most dramatic — and successful settlement enterprise — was celebrating its fifth anniversary, and Upper Nazareth, the all Jewish city built upon a height overlooking the Arab stronghold in the Galilee, had just passed the 5,000 mark in Jewish population.

## Time for Stocktaking

Perhaps the most correct description of the UJA Mission's purpose would be stocktaking — the needed inventory of unmet needs, and the challenge the immediate future holds for Israel and world Jewry.

More specifically, what would be the irreducible minimum that Israel and world Jewry's instrument of redemption — the Jewish Agency — requires — now, in 1961 — to meet the exigencies of the task of building a land and settling scores of thousands of people on it.

And, also, what the Joint Distribution Committee needed at the very minimum to help 200,000 Jewish men, women and children in hundreds of communities

scattered across Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and to maintain its network of Malben homes and hospitals so essential for the rehabilitation of Israel's sick, aged and handicapped immigrants.

The 1960 Mission's tour of duty began on October 19th — after a three-day conference in Rome with the Joint Distribution Committee which was highlighted by a memorable audience with Pope John XXIII — and ended thirteen days later in Jerusalem with a dinner tendered to the 125-man UJA delegation, by David Ben Gurion, Israel's Prime Minister.

## Largest UJA Mission

In the words of Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA's Executive Vice Chairman:

"This Mission was, the largest we ever brought here. This Mission worked harder than any previous Mission, travelled the farthest, penetrated into the Negev the deepest, went down to Revivim, went up to the top of the hills of new Nazareth to look at the houses and factories, went to Haifa to see the ship with the *olim*, went to Lachish, went most deeply into the problems of *haklout*, the moshavim among the 485 farm settlements which have been founded since the establishment of the State. I think they studied that one problem [the farm settlements] more deeply than any previous Mission ever studied any one single problem and they deserve the highest praise . . ."

The Mission traversed a country whose physiognomy had changed radically even over the past year, thanks to the success of bold development schemes; where agricultural production was ever increasing, where industry was expanding, where the campuses of schools and universities were teeming with students.

## Israel's Great Achievements

It was hard to imagine that, as a result of an immigration of nearly one million, two out of every three Israelis whom the Americans met did not live in the country 12 years ago. It was difficult to realize that despite the fact that it was a country which in the words of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, "was maintaining a military budget more suitable to a country of 20 million; and meeting the absorption needs of an immigration which is coming in at a rate which would strain the economy of a nation of 50 million" today —



Dewey D. Stone *Receives Honorary Doctorate from Weizmann Institute.*



Minister of Education Abba Eban, *Institute President, addresses luncheon in Mr. Stone's honor.*



Benjamin H. Swig *lays wreath on grave of Chaim Weizmann — Israel's First President.*



UJA Executive Vice Chairman Herbert Friedman *presents Mr. Kiesler with Mission's birthday gift.*



Adolph Kiesler *joins children at dedication of Kiesler Youth Aliyah Center — his birthday gift.*



... Nine out of ten of its immigrants have permanent homes and jobs.

... The ma'abarot population had, in eight years, been reduced from 250,000 to less than 50,000.

... That Israel had succeeded in settling on the land nearly 15 percent of her immigrants: 130,000 men, women and children — 32,000 families.

... That through an investment of IL 750 million it established 485 new farm settlements to provide not only home and livelihoods for these 32,000 families, but to grow food for the nation, as well.

... That Israel which had started life with the severest kind of food rationing had, thanks to these new farm settlements, achieved self sufficiency and sometimes surpluses in all the foodstuffs it needed — milk, eggs, poultry, vegetables, potatoes, fruits — all except grain cereals.

... That these settlements are also producing many new crops — cotton, groundnuts, sugarbeet, which are serving as sources of raw materials for its industries, as well as for export purposes, all of which auger well for Israel's economic future.

... That scores of new cities and villages have taken their places on what was once barren and empty spaces on the map of Israel — in areas where five years ago few, if any, Jews lived — Lachish, the Jerusalem Corridor, the Negev, Upper Nazareth in Galilee and other areas where settlement was essential to the nation's security.

These great immigration and absorption achievements — made possible partially by the unflinching support Israel is receiving from the Jews of America, particularly through the United Jewish Appeal, only told part of the story. These assets were being overshadowed by crucial problems in Israel's great social overhead whose solution could no longer be forestalled.

That was the area of unmet needs in Israel's immigration absorption program which the Jewish Agency is carrying out as part of the historic obligation of all Jews in the upbuilding of the Jewish state.

### Areas of Unmet Needs

This great social overhead was composed of:

... The continued existence of many ma'abarot. Outstanding as Israel's achievements have been in liquidating the great bulk of these transit camps, it provides little comfort to the 50,000 men, women and children who — after five, six, seven and even

eight years of waiting — are still without permanent homes. And at the present rate of housing construction — a rate dictated by the availability of funds — thousands of them will have to continue to live in these squalid shanty towns for several more years.

... Although 12,000 children are being cared for in 200 UJA supported Youth Aliyah Centers, as many more children — orphans, half orphans and children from impoverished or broken homes — all of them desperately in need of these special child care and youth services, still cannot be accommodated.

... There are thousands more hard-core social cases who require the care and rehabilitation aid of the over extended JDC-Malben network of homes, hospitals and institutions.

... The need to extend the ORT vocational training school network has been made more urgent by the fact that secondary school training is not free, as well as the growing technological needs of Israel's agriculture and industry.

... The fact that the state of impoverishment of thousands of new immigrants entering the country from Eastern Europe and the underdeveloped countries calls for financial and housing provisions far in excess of the aid formerly extended to immigrants.

... The fact that most of Israel's 32,000 immigrant farmers cannot be considered self supporting due to the inability of the Jewish Agency to provide these farmers with the tools and equipment, the housing and livestock and, in many cases, even the water these farms need to go on a self sustaining basis.

### \$200 Million for Agriculture

In fact, the cost of fully consolidating these 485 farm settlements, estimated at IL 350 million — roughly about \$175 million — is equal to all the other urgent major expenditures the Jewish Agency is obligated to meet in the near future — such as the liquidation of the ma'abarot and other basic elements of its absorption problem, as well as the other obligations which the Jewish Agency had been forced to contract to carry out its vast immigration absorption and agricultural settlement obligations.

As Dr. Dov Joseph, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency emphasized: Upon the final consolidation of these farm settlements rests the entire Israeli economic structure. In fact, the stabilization and consolidation of Israeli's farm settlements will also have a bearing on Israel's future relations with the emerging new nations in Africa and Asia because the similarity of their development needs is bringing these nations into



Dr. Nahum Goldmann, *Jewish Agency chairman*, is speaker at *Study Mission's Opening Dinner*.



Joseph Meyerhoff *presiding at meeting* addressed by *Dr. Dov Joseph – Jewish Agency Treasurer*.



Dr. Giora Josephthal, *Israel Labor Minister*, tells *Mission Israel's needs are on the rise*.



Messrs Lowenthal, Forman and Fisher Greet *Gen. Dayan, Minister of Agriculture*.



*Mission Members get down to business at the briefing sessions held at the Accadia.*



*Another view of the same session which discussed housing and other serious absorption problems.*



Ambassador Reid swapping "hellos" with Mission Members at reception at his residence.



Pittsburgh's Morris Paul and Toledo's Stanford Goldman get the Ambassador off to themselves.



Mrs. F. Gordon Borowsky thanks to the Ambassador for his hospitality to the large Mission group.



Mission Members visit Israel's vocational centre - ORT's Syngalowski School near Tel Aviv.



Student demonstrates lathe's operation to interested group at ORT School.



Joseph Mazer gives Mission members a conducted tour of Israel's first paper mill at Hadera.

close contact with Israel, thus laying the foundations for friendly diplomatic and economic relations which will have a decisive bearing on the future of the Jewish state.

The absorption of the million immigrants now in Israel and the other million destined to enter the country in the near future was dependent upon the final consolidation of Israel farm settlements. Their stabilization was the key to the solution of all current absorption problems.

### B-G: "Prepare for Great Day"

Prime Minister David Ben Gurion referred to this great forthcoming immigration when he told the Mission:

"There are two Jewish communities numbering about 4 million people. Three million of them are living in a large country in Europe, the other million are scattered among the countries of North Africa. In all those countries there is a growing pressure for more freedom and a better life and I am sure that the time will come when their governments will have to let these Jews go. Then they will come to Israel and we must be prepared for that great and difficult day because then we shall be put to the greatest test in our history."

Even more emphatic about the role Jewry must play in preparing Israel for this new Aliyah was this statement by General Haim Laskov, Chief of Staff of Israel's Defense Forces:

"Jewish immigration is the foundation of our state. Jews will persist in coming here, despite 'curtains' or other barriers because nothing can stifle the desire, the hope of a people to be free.

"And yet," he asked: "Is enough being done to prepare for the eventuality that our brethren will come, bringing with them only the clothes on their backs? We ask not because we alone have the answers but because we know that this can only be a world wide Jewish effort and that not enough is being done. Does Jewry have to wait until the exodus reaches our shores?"

### The Challenge Ahead

"... I cannot deny the feeling that we in Israel and you in America are not responding in proportion to the magnitude of the challenge that confronts us. We shall be struggling uphill unless Jews the world over devote every fibre and sinew in a great concerted effort. For if we fail here this time, it may be too late.

"We lost the First Temple to the Babylonians. We lost our Second Temple to the Romans. The State of Israel is our Third Temple. Are we to lose it because of lack of continuous, stubborn, dogged tenacity and sacrifice? This is the Jewish battlefield. We can win if we have the will to win."

Urging the Mission to get behind Israel's great effort to create the means of absorbing the million Jews who are destined to arrive over the next decade, Dr. Goldman said:

"Now is the time to begin to consolidate the achievements of the past and prepare for new, greater steps forward."

"Great steps forward will come, primarily in new, enlarged immigrations. It must start again because there are hundreds of thousands of Jews for whom the ultimate solution is to come to Israel. I can't tell you that this immigration out of North Africa, out of Russia will start in two or three years from now, but it will happen.

"It will mean a wave of immigration in the hundreds of thousands and we must prepare Israel for it. And the only adequate preparation is to liquidate the unmet needs of today, liquidate the ma'abarot, consolidate the farm settlements.

### Absorb First Million

"*Help Israel absorb the first million!* Only this will enable Israel to absorb the second million immigrants who are destined to come."

Why the pileup? Why the great backlog of unmet needs that is facing world Jewry today? Why the great indebtedness to the farm settlements? The answers were supplied by Dr. Joseph, as follows:

"If you were to take the total immigration for the 12 years since the state was established," Dr. Joseph told the Mission, "you would find that the immigration average has been over 80,000 a year. Even if you take the rate of immigration for the last five years, including last year when immigration was admittedly low, you would still find that we had taken in an average of 40,000 immigrants a year . . .

"But the money which we shall have received this year will not be nearly enough to provide for the 30,000 immigrants who are entering this year. He — the new immigrant — therefore represents the immigrant whom we haven't the money to help.

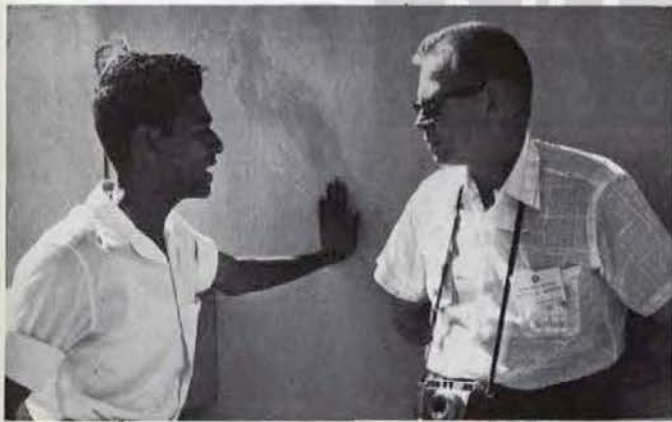
"That is the reason why although we have built thousands of new housing units, we still are short the housing units we need for the 9,000 families who still are living in the ma'abarot. Even though the govern-



Dr. Raanan Weitz, of Jewish Agency, briefs Mission on farm conditions in the Lachish Region.



Rabbi Friedman shows Mission the deserted village of Kochav, which died for lack of water.



Bernard Barnett gets his agricultural information at first hand from a Lachish farmer.



One of Lachish's farmers explains need for tractors and livestock to make farm pay dividends.



Children at Nehora, Lachish rural centre, make friends with Mission Members.



*Mission Members disembark from train at Beersheba  
— Gateway to the Negev.*



*Gen. Chaim Laskov, Army Chief of Staff, addresses  
Mission at luncheon at an army base.*



*Panoramic view of Rivivim, pioneer Negev kib-  
butz, is enjoyed by Mission.*



*Entering the staging area to witness tank man-  
euvers, "Somewhere in the Negev."*



*Truckload of Mission Members take off for Ar-  
mored Corps Base in the Negev.*



*Camouflaged netting offers a welcome protection from the desert sun during tank maneuvers.*



*Tank corpsmen stand inspection for the Mission members after the "show."*



*Leather-lunged desert fighter leads Mission in song at Army 'kumsitz'.*



*Mutual admiration society is formed by Israel's desert warriors and UJA'ers.*



*Everybody joins in the songfest around fire at this Army 'kumsitz' or barbecue.*

## THE YOUNG ...



Moshe Koll, Youth Aliyah head, addresses Mission at Neve Hadassah Youth Centre.



Mrs. Wineman joins Neve Hadassah kids in a hora, one of dozen which involved all Mission members.



Kids show their versatility by doing an Israel version of "Rock 'n Roll."

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES AND THE OLD ...



Louis Horwitz, Director, Malben-JDC, talks about activities at the Rishon Le Zion Home for Aged.



Rabbi Friedman, Philip Stollman and Robert Gamzey visit the Home's House of Study.



Choral Group at Rishon Le Zion put on a "show" for their American Guests.



ment — through the taxpayer is also paying for these housing units — we cannot allocate more than a fifth of the nearly \$30 million which is needed to liquidate the ma'abarot once and for all . . .

“That is why even after investing IL 700 million for initial housing and farm buildings, roads, power, and water in order to get our farm settlements started — we cannot make the final, additional investment of IL 350 million which would justify the financial efforts made so far . . .”

## The Day of Decision

As is traditional with all UJA Study Missions, the members met in caucus the day before the Prime Minister's dinner to take stock of Israel's energetic efforts on its own behalf and, in the words of Max Fisher of Detroit who chaired the meeting:

“to formulate the policies and ideas that we are going to recommend to the UJA's annual conference in New York and which traditionally have a tremendous effect upon our campaign and its philosophy and objectives during the coming year.”

The members of the Mission walked into the caucus room, remembering not only the statements which had been formally presented to them by Israel's leaders, but also the many impressions which they gained as a result of their trips to the development areas and the farm settlements.

. . . They remembered Lachish, the million dunam agricultural district which, only five years after the final blueprints were registered on the drawing boards, had been transformed from a desert into an area of plenty. More, how it transformed into a stable farm population twenty five thousand settlers who came to Israel from the caves of the Atlas Mountains, from the mellahs of Tunisia and Morocco and from other underdeveloped, almost forgotten lands like Cochinchina and Kurdistan.

. . . And at the entrance to Lachish there was the dead village of Kochav which was deserted by its discouraged settlers after waiting in vain for water, farm machinery and livestock.

. . . They recalled Mevo Betar — a moshav nestling in the barren hills of the Jerusalem Corridor, close to the Jordan frontier — a key outpost in Jerusalem's defense perimeter. They remembered the harsh hill terrain from which the settlers were literally blasting a meagre livelihood for their families — removing boulders and breaking them down into stones for the terraces which would hoard the earth

for the newly planted fruit trees and grow pasturage for sheep.

. . . They recalled the new life the heroic survivors of the Polish Ghettos had made for themselves at Lochmei Hageettoat, a kibbutz outside of Haifa . . . The splendid isolation of all-Jewish Upper Nazareth, overlooking the all-Arab city of Nazareth, and the thrill of seeing a score of new immigrant families being moved — four hours after their arrival in Israel — into one of its apartment houses . . . The new immigrants aboard the SS *Theodor Herzl* in Haifa Harbor — their eyes glistening with emotion — awaiting transport to Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Shmoneh, Beersheba and other development areas.

. . . There was the memorable visit to the JDC-Malben Home for the Aged at Rishon LeZion — a geriatric showplace — of 40 structures, laid out amidst beautiful lawns and shade trees . . . Its house of study . . . Its magnificent recreation center . . . The understanding care its 250 residents were receiving . . . all adding life to their years, not just years to their life.

These impressions told them more eloquently than the words of statesmen that “in helping Israel, they were sharing in the shaping of a great Jewish future.”

The meeting, in a sense, was a historic one, too, because it was the first one since the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. was organized. The latter is a wholly American organization that has the responsibility for receiving UJA funds and for selecting the programs in Israel on which these funds are to be spent.

## UJA Contributed \$569 Million to Israel Over 12 Year Span

The caucus made one noteworthy contribution by its decision to restore the art of the possible to national fundraising. For the past five years, the United Jewish Appeal has been presenting the American Jewish community with a statement of the needs in Israel amounting to more than \$200,000,000 — a figure which really represented the optimum of fund raising on a global scale rather than what could be raised on an annual basis by the Jews of America. In the course of the last twelve and a half years of statehood, \$766,000,000 had been contributed to the work of the Jewish Agency, with the Jews of the United States, through the United Jewish Appeal, contributing \$569,000,000 of this amount.

This overall percentage of American Jewish contributions — which is approximately two-thirds of the world figure in any given year — the Mission decided would be the norm, the yardstick, by which they



*The Nuclear Pile Installation at Nahal Sorek houses Israel's Atomic Reactor.*



*Israeli scientist explains workings of reactor, built with US grant.*



*Upper Nazareth — a city on a mountain top — will help Israel "judaize" the Galil.*



*Alan Sagner, Mrs. and Mrs. Michael Stavtisky talk to one of Nazareth's new immigrants.*



*Merril and Mrs. Hassenfeld do a bit of autographing to oblige Nazareth's kids.*



*Victor and Mrs. Ottenstein prefer to lead them in song, and enjoying it, too.*



*"Hay Ride" — Israel style — takes Mission members for a tour of Ramat Meir's orange groves.*



*Three Mission members get a private briefing about farming from Ramat Meir's headman and his son.*



*At the Ghetto Fighters Memorial Museum, a guide shows Mission the layout of one of Hitler's death camps.*



*But the other side of the coin — one of the kibbutz' sabras, chatting with Jacob Stuchin.*



*Grim reminders of the Nazi era are displayed at Kibbutz Lochmei Haghetoat's museum.*

AMERICAN JEWISH  
CHIVES



I. D. Fink and Paul Kapelow lead Mission up gangplank of SS Herzl, loaded with new immigrants.



A patriarch from Morocco and his wife are greeted by a Mission member.



The youngest immigrant aboard the ship rates special attention from two of the Mission VIP's.



Dr. Weitz — at Mevo Betar — shows the Moshav's strategic position in the Jerusalem Corridor.



Mission Members view Jordan from the breastworks that girdle Mevo Betar.

would measure their fund raising objectives for 1961. They spoke of "realistic goals," of "a goal that could be translated into tangible quotas on the community level," "realistic budgets," "an irreducible budget," before they struck upon the key phrase which set the caucus in motion: "A SPENDING BUDGET!"

### 1961's Spending Budget:

**\$72,740,000**

This is the SPENDING BUDGET they propose to present to the 23rd Annual UJA Conference:

For a program encompassing the reduction of the ma'abarot population by at least 2,000 families; for the continuation of child care and youth services through the Youth Aliyah centers at the 1960 level of 12,000; for the transport, reception and processing of a minimum of 30,000 new immigrants; and for the first phase of its consolidation program on behalf of the 485 farm settlements — the Jewish Agency in 1961 must receive from the U. J. A. **\$51,095,000.**

For its program of welfare services on behalf of 200,000 Jews in Europe, in the Moslem lands and underdeveloped countries, and for the care in Israel of a minimum of 29,000 sick, aged and handicapped immigrants by its Malben network of homes, hospitals and other institutions, the Joint Distribution Committee must receive through UJA **\$17,200,000.**

Plus allocations to NYANA for the absorption of immigrants entering the United States through the port of New York, to HIAS, and for the operating expenses of the United Jewish Appeal nationally, which amount to **\$4,445,000.**

The sum of \$72,740,000 which the Mission voted to submit to the UJA's forthcoming Annual National Conference in New York is approximately 15 percent higher than the amount the UJA expects to raise in 1960.

### Retain Special Fund Principal

Furthermore, this spending budget retains, in principle, the Special Fund which has been integral to the UJA campaigns for the past five years, as the \$51,095,000 figure for the Jewish Agency represents a 25 percent increase over the funds which have been allotted to the Jewish Agency from the Combined Regular and Special Fund proceeds of the 1960 campaign and the four previous campaign years.



*President Ben Zvi greets Mission members at reception held at his official residence.*



*Foreign Minister Golda Meir follows buffet supper at her home with an "off the cuff" talk.*



*Delegation of Mission Members  
pose with  
Prime Minister in Jerusalem.*



*Gen. Yigael Yadin,  
famed soldier-archeologist,  
greets Mission at Hebrew University.*



*Mr. Ben-Gurion  
urges fulfillment of Israel's goals.*



Ambassador Reid  
*adds Yankee touch to proceedings.*

SCENES FROM  
THE PRIME  
MINISTER'S  
DINNER  
TO MISSION



Zalman Shazar  
*handles protocol as dinner chairman.*



Rabbi Friedman  
*pledges all-out support by UJA.*

Foreseeing that in order to achieve this "SPENDING BUDGET" each community will have to accept a quota that would fairly reflect its proportionate share of the increased national goal, the Mission members pledged themselves — and they will seek to pledge the community delegates to the UJA's conference — to do all in their power to assure that their communities will grant Israel's social and economic obligations the same status that their budgets for local Jewish services enjoy. "Both," they emphasized, "are spending budgets."

### A Collaboration Without Precedent

Perhaps the best comment that could be made about the action of the Study Mission in urging this new approach to Israel's financial problems, ap-

peared, oddly enough, in an editorial of welcome published by the *Jerusalem Post* on the eve of the Mission's arrival. Commenting on the great financial crisis confronting each of the new emerging nations — a factor which makes them the pawns of the richer nations, the editorial declared:

**"Israel is fortunate in this respect because the Jews of America accept responsibility for many of the financial problems of the new state. The spirit of the United Jewish Appeal has made possible a collaboration without precedent in history. A country that does not have to struggle alone during its formative years is fortunate indeed. The UJA Study Mission will no doubt ascertain what tools are needed to finish the job."**

This is exactly what the Seventh United Jewish Appeal Study Mission to Israel has done.

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



*Oranges sure taste good at Ramat Meir, agricultural settlement on the coastal plain.*